THE PLESANT, Hiſtorie of Lazarillo de Tormes a Spaniarde, wherein is conteined his marueilous deeds and life.

With the Strange aduentures happened to him in the ſeruice of ſundry maiſters.

Drawne out of Spaniſh by Dauid Rouland *of Angleſey.*

Accuerdo, Oluid.

LONDON
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To the right Worshipfull Sir Thomas Gresham *Knight.*

WHEN I had reade ouer this litle treatise (right worshipfull,) finding it for the number of strange & merry reports, very recreatiue and pleasant, I thought it no labor euil bestowed, to occupie my selfe in the translation thereof. And being moued therto the rather, perceiuing that in France many de lighted therein, being turned into their tongue, I fully determined to bring my former pretence to ends Considering that besides much myrth, here is also a true discription of the nature & disposition of sundry *Spaniards*. So that reading thereof, such as haue not trauailed Spaine, may aswel discerne much of the manners & customes of that countrey as those that haue there long time continued And being now finished, I was so bold as to dedicate the fruit of my simple labor vnto your worshipp, who both for trauaile, daily conference with diuers nations, & knowledg in al forren matters is knowen to be such a one, as is wel able to iudge, whether these reports of little Lazarillo be true or not. Wherfore I most humbly beseech your worship favorably to accept thys poore present as offred of one who wished vnto you & yours, al health, wealth, long life, with increase of all vertue and worship: Trusting that after your waightie and important affaires, to ease your tedious excercises you will recreate your selfe with reading of some pleasant parte hereof.

Your worshipp most humbly to commands, David Rowland.

IAm of opinion, that things so worthy of memory, peraduenture neuer hard of before, ne seen, ought by al reason to come abrod to the sight of many, & not be buried in the endlesse pit of oblivion, there perpetually to be forgotten: for it is possible that those, which shal reade this treatise of my life, may finde some pleasure therein, wherfore true it is that Plinie recordeth, there is no booke so euil, but hath some goodnes in it contained (considering all men tast not a like,) that which one man will not eate, another longeth fore for: we se many dispise things which other do greatly esteeme: Therfore nothing ought to be broken and cast away, vnles it were detestable, but that first diuers men should see the same, and especially being not hurtful, but rather able, in steade of damage to yeeld profit and vtilitie. If the world were otherwise, very fewe would take pen in hand to pleasure one man only, seing that they cannot bring their workes to end with out great trauell, & when they haue ended their labor, they rightfully desire to be recompenced. and not with mony but only that all men with curteous minde will read and allow their workes, (yee and if there be cause why) giue them praise. for to this end Tullie saith, Honor both maintaine art or cunning. Do you thinke that the souldier that first mounteth on the wall with his ladder, is wery of his life. No surely, the desire of honor encourageth him, so to venture into

such

such danger. So likewise in Art & learning, we vse to say, maister doctor hath preached wel, he is a man that seeketh the health of Soules: but I pray you demand of him whether he wil be offended that one shal say, how deuinely you haue preached maister doctor. The like happeneth in men of armes, as men comm only report, O how such a knight iustled noughtly, and notwithstanding he hath giuē his coate armor to a iester which commended him for running wel, what would he had giuen, if he had said the truth: Wherefore now that all things passe after such a sort, I confessing my selfe to be no holier then my neighbours, am content that such as finde any tast in this my grosse stile and nouelty, may pleasure and delight themselues therewith: and they may perceiue how a man liueth, after so many fortunes, daungers, and aduersities.

Therefore now I beseech your worship, receiue with willing hart this poore token of my true affection, which should haue beene much richer if power and abilitie had ben equall with desire. And seeing that you haue commaunded me to write the matter at length, I haue thought good not to begin the midst of my life, but first to tell you of my birth, that all men may haue full knowledge of my person, that those which possesse great rents and reuennes, may vnderstand what small praises due vnto them, seeing that fortune hath dealt partially with them: and how much commendation they deserue, which in despite of cruell fortune, with force and industrie, by rowing out of tempestious seas, haue arued to fortunate and happie hauens.

LAZARILLO declareth his Life, and whose Sonne he was.

YOur worship shall vnderstand before all things that my name is Lazaro de Tormes, sonof *Thome Gonsales*, *Antona Petes* natiue of *Tessiares*, a village neere *Salamanka*: I was borne within ỳ riuer called *Tormes*, whereof I tooke my surname, as hereafter you shall heare: my father whome God pardone, had the charge of a Mill standing vpon the Riuer wherein he supplyed the roome of a Milner about xv. yeares. It fortuned on a night my mother being great with child, was there brought to bed, and then was I borne: therefore now I may truely report the Riuer it selfe to be the place of my nativitie: and after the time I came to the age of eight yeares, there was layd to my Fathers charge that he had shamefully cutte the seames of mens sackes that came thither to grinde, wherefore he was taken and imprisoned, and being tormented he confessed the whole matter, denying nothing wherfore he was persecuted. I trust in God that he is now in paradice, seeing that the Gosple doth say, that blessed are such as confesse their faults. About the same time an army was made against the Turkes, and my father beeing then banished for the mishap aforesaid: chanced to be one supplying the roome of a muliter, vnder a knight which went thither, in whose seruice like a true and a faithfull man he ended his life. My mother beeing then a comfortlesse widdowe, after the losse of her deare husband, determined to inhabite among such as were vertuous and honest, to be of that number, and therefore came immediatly to this noble Citty, where after that she had hired a little house, she kept an ordinary table for diuers Students, and washed shirts for a company of horskepers, belonging to the Commaunder, of Magdalena, by meanes whereof she had occasion to make often resort vnto the stables, where in continuance of time, a blacke Morrion, one of Maister Commanders men, became to be familiarly acquainted with hir:

So

So that for his part he wold oftentimes arriue at midnight to our house, and returne againe betimes in the morning, otherwhiles at noonetide, demãding at the doze, whether my mother had egges to sell, and so come in pretilie with out suspition: at the beginning I was right sorie to see him make repaire thither, being afraid to behold his black vncomly visage: but after that I once perceiued how only by his resort our fare was well amended, I could by no meanes finde in my heart to hate him, but rather beare him good will, reioycing to see him, for when he came, he alwaies brought vs home many good round cantells of bread, and also peeces of broken meate, and in the Winter time wood to warme vs with all. To bee short, by his continuall repaire thether, matters went so forwarde, that my mother founde good time to bring forth a yong mozren, whome I daily played withall, and sometimes helped to warme. And I remember very well that one a time as my Stepfather played merily with his yong sonne, the little childe perceiuing that my mother and I were white & his father blacke as peat, he ran away for feare to my mother, & stretching forth his finger, cried *Mamma the bugge*: Wherat my blacke step father would laugh, and say, a whoresonne, art thou afraid of thy father. Although I was then but yong, I right well marked the childs words, and said to my selfe, there are many such in the worlde, which do abhor & fly from others bycause they cannot see what shape they haue themselues. Within a while after, it pleased fortune that the daily conuersation of Aide (for so was my fathers name) came to the eares of him that was steward to Master Commander, who made such straight inquiry, that he was aduertised how the blacke mozen vid vse to steale haulse the prouander that was alloweo the horses, yea, horseconerings, sheets and curry combes, other whiles wood, and bran: which thing indeede he alwayes sayd was lost, and when nothing could be gotten to serue his turne, he would neuer sticke to vnshoe the horses, to get some gaine, presenting daily all such gifts to my mother, as a help to bring vp my little blacke brother. Let vs neuer therfore marualle more at these which steale from the poore, nor yet them which conuey from the houses they serue, to present therewith whome they loue in hope to attaine thereby their desired plea-

pleasure, seeing that loue was able to encourage this poore bond-
ere is an man or slaue to doe thus much as I haue said, or rather more,
ler in which by euident triall was afterwards proued true: for I be-
t cuntry ing examined of the deede after much threatning was constrained
en any as a childe, for feare, to discouer the whole matter, confessing how
ore doth I had tolde certaine horseshooes, to a smith at my mothers com-
nmit a- mandement: wherefore my miserable stepfather was by iudgmẽt
heinous of the law, as the order is there, whipped and Larded, and to my
ence, to mother expresse commandement was giuen vpon the vsual paine
ip him of a hundred stripes, no more to enter into the house of the aboue
ked and named Commander, nor yet entertaine into hirs the vnfortunate
ing fast zaide. My sorowfull mother fearing to throw the helue after the
und with hatchet, determined by all meanes to keepe their commandement
hands wherefore shee entered into seruice with those which at that
d knees time dwelt at the ordinary Inne called Solon: so to escape dan-
gether, ger and to auoide the dangerous reports of euill tongues, where
bast him she suffered much sorrow, and there brought vp my blacke bro-
h hete ther, vntill he was able to runne abroade, and that I being a
ops of good stripling, could goe vp and downe the towne to prouide the
ning guestes of wine, and candles, and other things necessary. In this
rde. meane time, there happened a blinde man to come thither to lodg
ere is no who thinking me to be a fit man to leade him, desired my mother
uision that I might serue him, wherewith she being right well content,
re in most earnestly prayed him to be good master vnto me, because I
es, for was an honest mans sonne, who in maintaining the faith of Iesus
guestes Christ against Turkes dyed, in the battaile of Gelues, and
oade how that she trusted in almightie God I would proue as honest a
st send man as he: therefore in any wise that he would be carefull ouer
the me, being a fatherlesse child. Let me alone (then answered he)
wne for I will not vse him as a seruant, but as a sonne. Then in happy
uch vic- time I began to serue my olde and newe maister: And after we
as they had remained certaine dayes at Salamanka, my blinde maister
de. perceiuing his gaine there to be but smale, determined to depart
thence: and a little before our departure, I went to see my mo-
ther: when I came where she was, we shed both bitter teares,
and she gaue me her blessing, saying now my deare sonne I shall
see thee no more, therefore be a good childe. I pray God be thy

helpe,

helpe, I doe thanke the Lord I haue brought thee vp wel hetherto, and I haue now put thee to a good maister, from henceforth prouide for thy selfe, seeing that I haue done my part. I tooke my leaue and returned in hast to my maister, which tarried for me ready to take his voiage. So we departed out of Salamanka, and came on our way as far as the bridge, at the enterãce whereof standeth a beast of stone, fashioned much like a Bul: assoone as we came neere it, the blinde man willed me to approch, saying, Lazarillo, put thine eare to this Bul, and thou shalt heare a terrible noyce within it: as soone as he had said the word. I was ready like a foole to bow downe my head, to doe as he commanded, thinking that his wordes had ben most true: but the traiterous blind man suspecting how neare it my head was, thrusteth forth his arme vpon a sodaine, with such force, that my sore head tooke such a blow against the diuelish Bull, that for the space of three dayes my greiuous sore heade felt the paines of his hornes, wherefore he was right glad and said: Consider now what thou art thou foolish calfe, thou must vnderstand, that the blinde mans boy ought to know one tricke more than the diuell himselfe. It seemed then immediatly that I awaked out of simplicitie, wherein I had of long time slept (like a childe,) and I said to my selfe, my blinde maister hath good reason, it is full time for me to open mine eyes, yea, and to prouide & seeke mine owne auantage, considering that I am alone with out any helpe. We continued on our iorney, and within fewe dayes I came to good knowledge, so he perceiuing what a ready tongue I had, was right glad, and sayd, neither gold nor syluer can I giue thee, howbeit, I doe meane to teach thee the way to liue, and so certainely he did: for next after God he made me a man, and although he was blinde, it was he that gaue me light, and that taught me how to know the world. I reioyce to declare vnto your worship these childish toyes, that you may se how commendable it is for a man of low estate to be brought to authoritie and exalted, and contrariwise what a shame it is, a man for dignitie and estimation to be pulled downe to wretched misery. But to returne to my blinde maister, and to shew his nature, I

 assure

assure you that sith the beginning of the world God neuer made man more deceitfull and craftie: for in his arte and trade of liuing he far passed all other: he could recite by hearte a hundred long prayers & more, yea, and the life of al the holy saincts, at his deuotion time he vsed such a lou e tunable voice, that it might be heard throughout the Church where he prayed and besides all that, he could counterfeite a good deuoute countenance in praying, with out any strang gesture, either with mouth or eye, as other blinde men are accustomed to vse. I am not able to recite a thousand other manner of wayes which he had to get money: he would make many beleeue that he had prayers for diuers good purposes, as for to make women bring forth children, yea, & to make men to loue their wiues, although they had hated them before neuer somuch. He would prognosticate to women that were with childe, whether they should bring forth a son or a daughter, in matters of phisicke, he would affirm that Galen neuer knew halfe so much as hee: also for any grieke, the tooth ach, or any other disease, there was neuer a one complained, but that immediatly hee would say, doe this, doe that, seeth such an hearbe, take such a Root, so that by this his continual practise, he had daily greate resort made vnto him, (especially of wome) which did faithfully beleeue all that euer he said: by them he had greate gaine, for he won more in a moneth, then twentie of his occupation did in a whole yeare. Yet for all his daily gaines, you must vnderstand that there was neuer man so wretched a niggard. For he caused me not onely to die for hunger, but also to want whatsoeuer I needed. And therefore to confesse the troth, if I had not found out meanes to help my selfe, I had bin buried long sithence.

Wherefore often times I would so preuent him of all his crafte, that my portion should proue as good as his: and to bring my matter so to passe, I vsed wonderfull deceites (wherof I will recite vnto you some) although sometimes my practising of them did cost me bitter paines. This blinde man carryed alwayes his bread & his vittel in a little bag of cloth which was shut at the mouth with an Iron buckle, vnder a miserable locke and keye:

at

at the time of putting his meate in, and taking it out, he would keepe such straight account, that all the world was not able to deceiue him of one crumme, and therefore there was no helpe, but that I must needes be content with that small allowance that he gaue me, which alwaies I was sure to dispatch at two mozsels: and as soone as euer he had shutte his little locke, hee would thinke then y all were sure, imagining that I had other matters in hand: then would I boldely vnrip and sow vp againe the side of his couetous sacke, vsing daily to lance one of the sides, there to take out not onely bread at mine pleasure, but also slices of flesh, & sweete carbonados: So that by such meanes I found conuenient time to ease the raging hunger which he was cause of.

Moreouer all the money that euer I could conuaye and steale from him, I changed alwaies into halfe blankes, and when any man deuounded any prayer, he had alwayes ordinary a blanke giuen him for his hire, & because he could not see, it should be deliuered me: but he could neuer so soone put forth his hand to receiue it, but I was as ready to throw it into my mouth & by quicke exchange to giue him the vallue of halfe of it, wherat he would much murmure, knowing by the only feeling of it what it was, and would say: How in the diuels name chanceth it that sithence thy comming to me, I receiue but halfe blankes, and before I had alwayes a whole blanke and sometimes two? I thinke surely that thy vnluckenesse be cause therof. From that time forward he thought good to shorten his prayers, cutting them off in the middest, wherfore he commaunded me, that as soone as the almes giuer had turned his backe, I should pluck him by the cloake.

Blind stand in Ch Porch ready hyred mone recite praye

Then straight wales changing tune, he would begin to cry with louue voice (as blinde men vse to doe), who will heare such deuout prayer, or relise the life of some holy Saynt?

At dinner or supper time, he had alwayes before him a little pot full of wine, which oftentimes I would lay hand on, and after two or three kisses send it secretly home againe. But that happy time continued but a while, for I was wont to leaue many times so little behinde, that he might soone espye the fault,

as indeede immediatly he did mistrust the whole matter, wherefore he began a new order, not to leaue his wine any more at randome, but to auoided aunger, had alwaies his little pot fast by the eare, so to be sure of his drinke. Yet notwithstanding for all this, the Adamant stone had neuer such vertue to draw Iron to it, as I had to sucke vp his wine with a long reede which I had prepared for the purpose: for as soone as the end of my reede had bin once in, I might well desire him to fill the pot againe. Yet at the last the craftie blinde man chanced to feele me, and another being angrie, determined to take away, to place his pot betweene his legges, couering it still with his hand, so to auoide all former daungers: when he had so done, I being accustomed to drinke wine, did long to tast of it, and perceiuing that my reed could then no more preuaile at all, I deuised another kinde of fetch, how to make a hole in the bottome of his wine pot, and to stop the same with a little softe wax, so that at dinner time making a shew as I were ready to dye for colde, I would creepe betweene the blinde mans legges, to warme my selfe at his small fire, by the heate whereof, the waxe being little in quantite, would so melt away that the wine would issue downe my mouth freshly and trime. I being sure to gape vpward so iust, that one droppe should neuer fall beside. So that when my blinde maister would tast of his wine, he should neuer finde droppe to quench his thurst, whereat he would much marualle, cursing and swearing all manner of othes, yea wishing the pot and all that was within it at the diuell, musing still how his wine could be so consumed away. Then straight waies to excuse my selfe, I would say, I trust you will not mistrust me gentle vnckle, seeing that the pot came neuer out of your owne handes. Wherevpon then to be well reformed of the trueth, he began to feele and to grope ouer the pot so often, that at last he found the spring, and at that time dissembled quietly the matter, as if he had perceiued nothing. The next day I beganne againe to prepare my selfe after my accustomed sorte to take my pleasure of his wine, being ignorant of the euil that should ensue, thinking that my maister would neuer haue mistrusted me about such a matter, wherefore I was merry and carelesse. But my cruel maister, perceiuing after what

strange

straunge sorte I receiued those drops of wine, which came forth as a quicksprzing at his potbottome, my face bent towards heauen, mine eyes in manner closed, to receiue with more delight and better taste, that pleasant licour which I thought did preserue my life. the malitious blinde man hauing time of reuengment at his will, lifted vp the sweete and sower pot, (as I may say,) and with all his force clapped it so rudely on my face, that I thought verily that heauen aboue, and all therein, had fallen vpon me. The cruell blow was such that tooke away my senses, it troubled sore my braines, and my face was all cut with peeces of the broken pot, yea and some of my teeth were then broken, which as yet is seene, wherefore I neuer loued him after, howbeit he cherished me daily: yet for all the false loue and friendship that he shewed, I perceiued right well how glad he was that he had so punished me. To make me amendes, he washed with wine the woundes which the vnhappy pot had made, & after much laughting, said, what sayest thou to this my boy, the wine that hath done thee hurt shall now heale thee again, and such other merry iestes, which I vtterly misliked. As soone as I began to recouer, and that my face was in manner healed, I considered with my selfe, how that with fewe more such blowes, the blinde man might quickely bring me to my graue: And therefore determined to shorten his daies if I could, which thing I went not immediately, but tarried a due time for mine owne safetie and aduantage, and whereas afterwards I went about to forget mine anger, and to forgiue him the blowe, the euill vsage and entertainement which he daily shewed me, would in no wise consent thereto. For still he tormented me with sore blawes without any offence or faulte at all. And when any man demaunded of him why he handled me so cruelly, straight wayes he would vp and declare the discourse of his pit, saying, doe you not thinke this childe is some inocent, and alwaies at the end of his tale these would be his wordes: who vnlesse it were the diuell him selfe could haue found out such rare prankes? The people would much marueill at my inuention, and blessing themselues, would say vnto my master: punnish him, punnish him, God will reward you therefore: which thing he did continually, and would haue

done without their bidding: wherefore I daily led him through the worst waies I could finde possibly, all for verie spite, minding if I could to doe him harme, wher I might espye stones or mire, I would euen through the thickest: and although I could neuer escape vnfoote. I was glad with losing one of mine owne eyes, to put out both his that neuer had any. At such times of his sorrowes to be reuenged, he would take holde with his nailes on the hinder part of my heade, where with his often pulling, hee had left very fewe haires behinde: it would neuer preuaile me then to say, that I could finde no better way, nor yet to sweare how I did not leade him that naughty way maliciously, for he was so subtile, that to my wordes he would giue small credit. But now because your worship shall vnderstand how farre his craft did extend, I will declare one chance amongst many, which happened in the time I serued him, wherein he seemeth to giue full vnderstanding of his subtiltie: when we departed out of Salamanka, his intent was to come to the Citty of Toledo, knowing that the people were richer there than in other places; although not so charitable, yet for all that, leaning to his olde prouerbe: *More giueth the niggard than the naked*, we tooke our voiage through the best villages wee could finde, where we found great gaine and profit, continuing after such sorte a certaine time: and whereas we liked not our entertainement, the third day we would be sure to take our leaue, to end our yeare. At fortune I at the last, that we arriued to a towne which is called Almorx, at such time as they gathered their grapes, whereof one of the vineyard gaue my maister a whole bunch, which by reason of the late time, were more then ripe, so that some were ready to fall from the bunch: wherefore he could by no meanes carry it in his bagge, by reason it was so moist. Therefore he determined to make a sumpteous banket with it; partely because he had no meanes to carie it with him, partly because he thought therewith to please me, which had receiued that day many cruell blowes. As soone as we found a valley fitte for the purpose, we sate vs downe and my maister sayd, *Lazaro my boy, I will now vse a great liberalitie towards thee, it is my pleasure y* both of vs shal eate friendly together this bunch of grapes, wherof thy

part

part shall be as much as mine, we will part it after this sort, thou shalt take one grape and I another, promising me faithfully that thou wilt not take aboue one at a time, and I will doe the like to thee, and so we will quietly ende our bunch, without any fraude or guile on either parte. Upon that condition we agreed & began our banket: but my maister belike forgetting his promise, did soone chãge purpose, for immediatly he began to pick the grapes by two and two, thinking peraduenture that I would doe the like, as he might well thinke. Indeede I was not farre behinde him, for as soone as I perceiued that he had brokẽ the law, I was not content to goe by two and two as he did, but went before him, taking vp by two and three together, and sometime more as I was best able. When the bunch was ended, he tooke the stalke in his hand, & waging his head sayd Lazaro thou hast deceiued me, by God thou hast eaten by three and three: I vtterly denyed it, and sayd, indeed vncle it is not true: why should you thinke so? Then he like a crafty blinde man answered, I did perceiue straight waies how the matter went, for when I began to take vp by two & two thou neuerdidst finde fault, but didst keep silẽce. I then laughed to my selfe, although I was but yong. I considered well his discreete consideration. Now sir to auoide long talke, I will leaue apart many matters aswell pleasant as worthy to be noted, which haue fortuned to me with this my first maister. I will onely tell what hapned a little before I departed: we came to Scalona, a towne of the Dukes, and when we were at our lodging, he gaue me a peece of a sausege to rost, the which being almost inough, and the fat dropped and pressed out vpon thin slices of bread, as the fashion is, and those being eaten, he drewe his purse, and boldly drew out a Mareuedi, willing me to fetch the quantitie thereof in wine. The diuell (who as they say) is the occasion that mẽ become theeues, was ready at hand to prepare opportunitie to deceiue him. it fortuned that neare the fire there lay a roote, somewhat long and euill fauored, such a one as belike was not seruisable for the potte, and therefore was left there as an abiect: and as at that instant time there was no moe people but he and I alone, I felt my selfe sore pinched with a liecorous apetite, my teeth beeing set on edge with the sweete

A Mareuedi is the eight parte of an English penny.

sauour of his rosted sausege, the which was the onely witnesse that I should be the eater thereof) I not regarding what the sequell might be, leauing aside all manner of feare, for to fulfill my rash desire, in the meane while that the blind man was drawing his purse, I whipt of quickely the sausege from the spit, and theron broached the foresaid wormeaten roote, which my maister most willingly tooke and began to tourne, thinking to roste that which for the goodnesse, was not worthy to be boyled.

So I went for wine, & by the way I made a faire ende of my sausege. and as soone as I came in againe, I found my maister wringing betweene two slices of bread, the naughtie roote, not knowing what it was: for with his fingers he had not as yet touched it. Immediatly after he began to eate, taking a large bit of bread, meaning to haue tasted a little of his sausege, but his teeth entered into the roote, where he found a colde morsell: whereat he being sore abashed, shewed it to me, and sayd, Lazaro what meaneth this? I then answered: How Jesus what is this? Alas wretch that I am, doe you meane to blame me, you know well that I came but now from the tauerne with wine, surely some naughty man hath bin here, that hath done this in dispite or mockage. Do no then said he, that cannot be possible, for I neuer let the spitte goe sixeuce out of mine owne handes. Then to cleare my selfe, I began to sweare all othes, that I was innocent of that vile exchange: but all was in vaine, for from the subtiltie of that vngratious blinde man, nothing could be kept hidde. He rose vp and tooke fast holde on my heade, to smell whether he could feele the sauour of his sausege: and as soone as euer he felt occasion to suspect that I had eaten it, he was as gladde as a good bloudhound, that had his chase in the winde: Wherefore to be better informed of the truth, beeing sore indued with anger, he rashly opened my mouth with the strength of his handes, so that perforce I was to gape euen to the vttermoste: and then he thrusted in all hast, into my mouth, his wormeaten nose, which was both long and sharpe, yea, which at that time by reason of great anger, was lengthned a whole handfull, so that the pike thereof did gall me throate. Wherefore, partly by reason of the feare that I was in, and partly by

cause

cause ỹ sausege in such short time was not setled in my stomack but most of all, by reason of the greate trouble which his monstrous nose put me to, wherewith I was in a manner choaked, I was forced to discouer my gluttony, so that the sausege of necessity retourned to his olde maister againe: for my poore stomache was so much altered, that before the blinde man had drawen out his boggish nose, I was euen ready to render vp the theft. For looke as soone as euer he had pulled out his snoute, the euill eatẽ sausege came gushing out after, in honest company. O mighty God who had ben buried, might well haue looked for my company, for I was altogether deade: his rage was then so greate, that if men had not come in, I thinke certainely he would haue taken away my life. With much a doe I got me out of his handes, leauing him with his clawes full of that small quantity of hayre which I had left, (all which torment he most iustly deserued, seeing that through his naughtinesse I sufferer such persecution.) The vngodly blinde man, would then declare to as many as came in, my vnfortunate disgraces, rehearsing often euer, as well the tale of his potte, and of the bunch of grapes, as also this last tricke of his sausege. The laughter that men made was so greate, that all such as were in the streete came in to see the feaste, where he recued with such grace all my misaduentures, that me thought verily I did them greate wronge, in not laughing for company. When all this was past, there came to my minde a certaine faint and a slothfull cowardnesse, which I had committed, in not leauing him noseles, seeing that I had time fit for the purpose: yea & that I had gone halfe the way to doe it. For if I had but closed my teeth to gether, his nose had neuer gon moze abroade: and truely I beleeue because it was the nose of that naughty man, it would haue better agreed with my stomacke then the sausege did, for had it once bin inuisible, I might well denyed it him againe. Now I would to God my teeth had done their part, for it had bin better so then otherwise. The hostise, and other that were there, made vs friendes, and with the wine I had brought for his supper, they washed my face, and my throate, which his nailes had all torne. Whereat he made much grudging, saying, certainely this boy doth consume mee

more wine in a yeare with washing his woundes, thã I doe drink in two. Without doubt Lazaro, thou arte more bound to wine than to thy father, for he onely begot thee once, and it hath saued thy life a thousand times, so declared how often he had wounded me and healed me againe with wine, and then sayd againe: I promise thee truely Lazaro if any man in the world shall haue happy chance with wine, it is thou. Which wordes caused those that were there, to laugh heartily, I beeing still in most sorowfull dispaire. But looke what the blinde man prognosticated then, it was not all in vaine, for his sayings at that time proued afterward most true: wherefore I haue oftentimes sithence called to mynd his wordes whereby it appeared that he had a great gift in prophecying, and therefore it hath often repented me of my cruell dealing towardes him although his deserts were euill, seeing that his wordes of Prophecy proued so true, as hereafter your worship shal plainely vnderstand. To conclude, his euill nature & my vsage cõsidered, I determined to forsake him for euer, & as I imagined dayly thereupon, desirous to departe, this his last deede perswaded me fully thereunto, the matter chanced to fal out thus. Within twõ daies after, we wẽt through the citty to demaund mens charityes, where it had rained much the night before, and bicause likewise it rained sore that day, my maister went praying vnder certaine portals that are there, where it was drie. When night did aproch, the raine continuing still, he said vnto me Lazaro, this raine is without ende, for the more that night draweth on, the more earnest it is: let vs draw homeward to our lodging. But as it chanced, we had betweene vs and home a greate wide gutter which the raine had made, wherfore I sayd, vncle this gutter is very broade and swifte, so that we shall haue much a doe to passe, notwithstanding, I haue now espyed one narrow place, where we may well leape ouer drye foote. He thought verily then, that I had giuen him good and friendly counsell, and therefore sayd, my good boy, now I perceiue thou art wise, I must needes loue thee: therefore I pray thee leade me to the narrowest place, where I may best escape, for now in winter it is not good to take water, especially to goe wetshood. O how glad I was then to see the time which long before I had wish-

wished for, wherefore without delay, I brought him from vnderneath the portals, and leade him right against a greate piller of stone which stoode in the Market place, and then sayd, vncle, this is the very narrowest place of all the gutter.

Then streight waies, by reason of the greate raine that fell vpon him, and also because of his greate haste to be vnder couert, and chiefly, for that God himselfe had at that time so blinded his vnderstanding, to giue me good time of reuengment, he gaue full credit to my wordes and sayd, Lazaro, let me see now how thou canst set me where I must take my iumpe, & then leape thou ouer a Gods name: I did so for when I had taught him his place, I leaped as farre as I could, and tooke standing behinde the poste, as one that had watched the reencounter of a Bull & then I said now vncle leape boldly as farre as you can possibly, for els you may chance wet your selfe. I had not so soone sayd the word, but that incontinently the poore blinde man was ready to take his race, returning a pace or two backe from the standing, and so with greate force tooke his leape, throwing forwarde his body like a Bucke, that at the last his heade tooke such a monstrous blow against the cruell stony piller, that his heade sounded withall as it had bin a lether bottell, whereupon he fell backe with his cloven pate, halfe deade: then gaue I a leape and said, how now vncle, could you smell the sauce so well, and why not the piller I pray you? proue now a little what you can doe, So I left him there betweene the hands of many men that came in al hast to helpe him, and tooke my ready way straight towards the gate, with no slow pace, and then trotted so fast forward that before night I arriued to Tortois. After that time I neuer vnderstood nor yet sought to know what God almighty did with him.

(.·.)

How Lazarillo placed himselfe with a Priest, and what thing happened to him *in his seruice.*

THE next day after, doubting of mine owne safety there, I departed thence and went to a village which is called Mekeda, where I met for my finnes, with a Priest, who as soone as he espyed how that I demaunded almes, did enquire whether I could helpe to masse: I answered saying, yea sir, that I can, as trueth it was: for although the blinde man had vsed me scarce well, he taught me to doe a thousand feates, whereof this was one. The Priest receiued me for his owne: so I escaped then from the thunder and came into the tempest, yea, and God knoweth, how from euill, to ten times worse, for the blinde man was in comparison of this maister, a greate Alexander. Howbeit he was so couetous a niggard, as heeretofore I haue rehearsed. All the miserye in the world, was inclosed within this most miserable and wretched Priest, for he had alwaies a greate olde cofer, wherein he continually locked with a key which did hang at the point of his Coate, al the breade that came from the Church at offrings, forgetting at no time to leaue the same vnlocked, being his onely store house and buttrey. For about all the house a man might discerne nothing that could be eaten, neither bacon hung in the chimney, nor cheeses layd vpō shelues, nor yet broken breade in some ou corner, as commonly in other houses one should finde, which things, so that I might only haue seene and not tasted, the sight would haue comforted me much. All the prouision he had, was a rope of onions, in a high Garret, kept also vnder a miserable locke and key, my allowance was only an onion for euery foure dayes. And when I should come for the key to take my due, if there were any stranger by, he would thrust

thrust his hand into his bosome, and with much modesty would say, take the key, see it be immediatly delinered me again, thou doest nothing but cramme vp my meate. So that he that had heard him would haue iudged there had bin vnder the custodie of that key, all the confectures of Valentia. But for any thing that was there, besides the rope of onions that hung on a naile, the deuill him selfe might haue parte, and of them to be kept such straight accompt, that if I had taken any time more then my ordinary, I should dearely haue bought it. After that I had continued awhile with him, I was ready euery houre to fall downe dead for hunger: His vse was, to dine and sup with as much flesh as mounteth to the value of fiue blankes, which not I was sure neuer to taste, vnlesse it were of the broth, which some times he would friendly parte betweene vs, and so for breade, I would to God I might haue had halfe as much as was sufficient. Vpon Satterdayes, as the custome was in that Citty, he would send me for a Sheepes heade that should cost three Maruedies, whereof when it was sodde, he would eate both the eyes, the tongue and the braine, yea. and all the flesh on both the cheeke bones: Then reaching me the platter, with a fewe naked bones, would say, take downe this to thee, and reioyce, seeing that thou hast the world at will, I am sure the Pope himselfe hath now no better life than thou hast: then would I answer him, with lowe voice, God send thee alwayes the like. I had not dwelt with him three weekes, but I was so leane that my legges were scarce able to beare me: the hunger was so greate that which I sustained, that I neuer thought to escape death, vnlesse that Gods helpe and mine owne industrie would finde some remedy to saue my life. And for to vse my accustomed subtilty, there was not wherewithall, seeing that there was nothing there to giue assault vnto: yea, although there had bin, I might neuer haue bin able to deceiue him, as I had done the poore blinde man, vpon whome I pray God take mercy if he be deade with his last blow. For howbeit he was craftie, yet wanting his precious sight, I was sure he could neuer see what I hourely did. But there was neuer man that had quicker eyesight than this Priest: For at offering time, the siluer was no sooner falne into the basen, but

A blank xii. part an Eng penny.

The cus tome is vpon Sa turday t eate the heades, the feet and bow els of beastes with his licence.

Two bl a Mar dy.

that straighe he had it registred, hauing alwaies one eye to my hand, and another to the people: and his eyes would so role in his heade, as if they had bin of quicke siluer. As soone as offring was done, he would take the basen out of my handes, and lay it vpon the aulter, so that I was neuer able to deceiue him of one blanke. And whiles I continued with him, (or to say better,) whiles that I consumed my selfe in this miserable seruice, he neuer sent me to the tauerne, for as much as the value of a blank in wine, but that small quantity which he had offered on the sunday, he kept alwaies in his coffer so sparingly, that it would last him all the weeke ouer, and for to hide his couetousnesse, he would some times say vnto me, my boy, all Priestes ought to be sober in eating and drinking, and therefore I dare not breake order as other doe. Now you shall see how the miser lyed falsly therein, for at burials and dirges, where he had meate at other mens charges, he would eate like a Woolfe, more then foure men, and would drinke like a Sauter: and because his office was alwaies to say dirge, at such times (God forgiue me) I was alwaies an enimy to humane nature, and onely, because that then we should fare well, and haue meate at liberty: I wished and prayed God that he would euery day call vp one to heauen. When we wēt to minister the sacramēt to such as were sicke, my maister would desire those that were there, to pray for the sicke man, surely I was neuer one of the last that prayed, desiring God with all my heart, not that he would doe to the patient according to his will, as (other prayed) but that he would dispatch him out of the world: and when any of them escaped death, I was ready (God forgiue me) to wish him at the deuill, and who soeuer dyed, was sure to haue of me many blessings, and prayers for his soule. I dwelt with this maister about sixe moneths, and in that time there dyed onely xx. persons. which I certainely shewe, or at the least, the earnest request of my praiers was cause of their death for God the father perceiuing the raging hunger which I continually sustained, reioysed, as I thinke, to slay them, to saue my life thereby. Considering, that otherwise my greate disease could not be remedied, for I was neuer at ease, but when we had burialls: The day that there was no burialls, my teeth

Sould

should haue no worke my heart would faint, because that I had beene vsed sometimes to haue my belly filled. At such times I found ease in nothing but in death, which then I wished, as well for my selfe, as I had done before for ỳ sicke men. I determined oftentimes to departe from that miserable master, yet fearing so to do, for two causes, first, because I durste not trust my legs, which by hunger were brought to great weakenesse, secondly, conflicting with my selfe, saying, I haue had two maisters: of the first I died for hunger whom when I had forsaken I chanced vpon this other, which with ỳ very same disease hath allmost brought mee to my graue: therefore I made account that if I should forsake the second & meet with a thirde that were worse then these two, then there were no remedy but plaine death, Wherefore I neuer durst depart from him, beeing assured to finde all estats worse and worse, knowing that to discend an other degree, Lazaro should be soone forgoten, being once rid out of this world. And being in such affliction (God of his grace deliuer euery faithfull Christian frō the like) not knowing how to councell my selfe. My misery daily increasing, vpon a day when by chance my wretched maister had gone abroad, there arriued by chaunce to to the doze a tinker, which I beleeue was an Angell disguisde sent from God, who demaunded for worke: I answered softly, thou hast inough to amend in me, and I beleeue more then thou canst doe. But as it was no time then to delay the matter, (by deuine inspiration) I said vnto him, buckle, I haue lost the key of this coffer, I feare that my maister will beat me for Gods sake looke among your keyes if ther be any that will open it, I will consider your paines: the heauenly tinker began to assay, now one key, now another, of this greate bunch, and I helped him with my prayers so that immediately before I was aware, he had opened it, where of I was so gladde, that me thought I did see in figure (as they say) the face of God whē I beheld the bread within it: & whē he had done al, I said vnto him I haue no money, but take this for thy payment, so he tooke one of the faireſt loues, and after he had deliuered me the key, hee departed right well pleased, and I as well contented as he. At that time I touched nothing, partely because I perceiued my selfe to be the

Lazaro wi a good Christian beleeuing that all goodnesse came from God.

Lord

Lord of such treasure, that by reason of that key, hunger durst neuer againe approch me. Incontinently after, who commeth in but my vnhappy maister, and as God would he neuer tooke heed of the loafe, which the heauenly tinker had borrowed. The next day after, as soone as he went abroade, I began to open my paradise of breade, and what betweene my hands and my teeth, with the twinkling of an eye I made a loafe inuisible, forgetting in no wise to lock the chest againe, then I began cheerefully to sweepe the house, iudging that by some such remidy I might ease my sorrowfull life. So I passed that day and the nert, with much mirth. But my contary Fortune wont about to hinder me to enioy such pleasure long, for the third day iuste, a tertian ague came vpon me, in perceiuing him that had slaine me with hunger, at an vndue houre, ouer the chest, turning and tossing, accounting and reconing his breade.

I dissembled the whole matter, as I had not perceiued him, and in my secret prayer and deuotion, I prayed saint John to blinde him. And after that he had bin a good while casting his account vpon his fingers, he sayd vnto me, if it were not that this cofer is so sure, I would say that some of my bread hath bin taken away, but from hence forth I will keepe good account of it, there is now left nine loues besides a broken peece: then sayd I with a lowe voice, nine euills God send vnto thee. It seemed vnto me with that which he had sayd, my hearte to be pierced through with an arrowe, and my stomacke began to rine for hunger, perceiuing how I was put to my former diet. Once then departed out, and I opened the sayd cofer to comfort my selfe a little, and beholding the breade, which I durst not touch, but worshiping it, I beheld and tourned it ouer to see if the wretch had ouer reconed himselfe: but I found his account more iust than I would haue wished it by the one halfe: the most that I could doe, was to giue it a thousand kisses, and to cut a little delicately of that place where it was cut before: and with that I passed ouer that day, yet not so merrily as I did the other. But now because two or three daies before I had breade at will, the appetite in my stomacke did increase in such sorte, that I was almost deade for hunger: wherefore being alone, I did nothing

but

but open and locke againe the coffer, beholding alwaies that breade as a God. And God himselfe which succoureth those that are afflicted, seeing me in such necessity, brought a little remedy vnto my memory, which was, that I remembred with my selfe this coffer to be old and broken in many places, and although the holes were little, yet might it be thought that Mice had entered therein to damage the breade. And to take out a whole loafe, the wretch would soone espy the fault: yet this may be better borne withall: So then I began to claw the breade with my nailes, vpon a simple napkin that was there, taking one loafe and leauing another, so that euery third or fourth. I would be sure to take some crummes, and euen as it were confects I did swallow the same. to comfort my stomacke. When he should come to dinner, opening his cheft, and espying incontinently the hurte, he did iudge that Rats had done this spoyle, for I had so counterfeited their gnawing, that any man would haue thought the same: wherefore he sought all corners of the cheft, and at the last he espyed certaine holes where he suspected they had entered whereupon he called me in haste, saying, Lazaro, see heere what persecution hath bin done this night vpon our breade. I began to maruaile, demaunding what it should be? what should it be said he but Rats, which leaue nothing whole? he went then to dinner, and as God would I had better allowance then I was wont, for with his knife he pared away al that which he thought the Mice had touched, saying, take this my boy, Mice are cleane. I chanced that day to fare better, for he augmented my allowance with the which I had made, by the trauell of my hands, or to say trueth, of my nailes. We ended our dinner for all that somwhat too soone, yet there came another plunge vpon me, perceiuing how the Priest was earnest in pulling nailes out of the wall, and seeking litle boordes to stop the holes againe: wherefore I sayd to my selfe (Lord God) vnto how many perills and calamities of fortune are humaine creatures subiect: how short a time doe the pleasures of our troublesome life last? lo where I am now, which trusted by this my poore remedy, to ease my misery, being in best hope of good aduenture, my euill lucke would not consent, but opened the sight of my couetous maisters vnder-

standing, causing him to haue more subtile wit than he had giuen him by nature although such wretches are comonly subtil enough. When he had dummed vp the holes, I thought his chest should bee shutte to my comforte, and open to my paine, and therefore I neuer left lamenting, vntill that the curious carpenter with his company of boyds had ended his worke of nailing, and when he had don, said: now ye traitorly Mice you must change purpose for there is no more profit for you in this house. As soone as euer hee went abrode, I went to vewe his worke, and I perceiued that he had not left in his olde cheste one hole vnstoped, not so much, as a place for a flie to get in: not withstanding with out hope of gaine I opened the chest with my vnprofitable key, and there visited two loues begun, which he had thought the Mice had carued, and from them once againe I scraped a little quantitie, touching them very lightly like a nimble maister of defence, for necessitie at that time my mistresse, causes mee day and night to imagine how I might liue and seek remedie for my sore, where vnto hunger taught me the way. which commonly maketh men haue ready wits. I began then to studie about my affaires seeking meanes to drawe some cõmoditie out of the said couetous cofer perceiuing one night that my maister slept soundly (or at least made me beleeue so) by his snorting and blowing, I rose on my feete and as I had taken order with my selfe the day before what should be done that night, I had left an olde knife which was cast about the house, in a place where it might be found at need, and went to that happy coffer: and where it seemed to haue least defence, I gaue the assault with my knife, which serued my turne well for a wimble: but the chest by reason of good yeares, being weake without strength, verry soft and tender, did straight waies render and consent that I should make for my commodity a good hole in the syde of it, and that done, opening the wounded chest, and knowing euery loafe seuerally by the touch, I did as I had done before, and by that meanes being somewhat comforted, hauing locked the chest againe. I returned to my pallet, whereupon I slept little (and as I thinke) my euill supper was cause of that, for otherwise at that time of the night the King of France his cares could neuer breake me of my sleepe. On the morning

the

the Pitch my maister perceiuing the hurte which was done as well to the breade as to the coffer, began to curse the Mice, saying, what meaneth this? there was neuer mouse wont to go here before now, and certainely his words were true, for if any house in the whole kingdome might be priuiliged frō Mice it was his, for mice are neuer wont to dwell where no parings of meate doe fall. But now he began againe to seeke nailes about the ways, & little bourds, to make defence against the traitorous Mice: but as soone as night came that he went to his rest. I rose vp with my tooles, & looked what he stopped in the day time, I broke vp againe in the night, finally, the one & the other of vs tooke such payne, that this prouerbe was fulfild when one doore is shut another openeth: at the last we seemed to haue Penelopes web in hande, whatsoeuer he wrought in the day, I vadid againe in the night: in somuch that we brought the poore coffer to such estate, ỳ who so euer would properly talke of it, might compare it to an olde boate or brigantine, for that number of olde nailes that was driuen into each side of it, when he saw his remedy preuailed not he sayd, this coffer is so olde and so weake, that it is no longer able to defende our victualles from vermine, it is now at that pointe that if I meddle any more with it, then ouer it will decay, and so at length be able to doe vs no seruice at all, and peraduenture euill fortune will cause me spend two or three shillings to buy another: the best remedie that I can finde, seeing this doth not preuaile, is to set vp a trap within it, to take these cruell Rats: whereupon he went immediatly and borrowed one of his neighbours, which he had continually bent with a bayte of cheese paring, which was layd onely for my comfort and ease, for although I could well haue eaten my breade alone, without the helpe of any thing else, to cause my appetite, yet the cheese paring which I would pull out of the trap, gaue me trim taste with my Mouse eaten breade. But when hee should perceiue the breade so spoyled with Rats, and the cheese eaten, and the Rat that did the deede not taken, then would he wish the trappe at the diuill, demaunding of his neighbours what it might be, that the cheese should be eaten, and the Rat not taken, yea and the trap fallen: the neighbours would answer that it was no rat,

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for at one time or other she had bin taken. And amongst them all, one said I doe remember that a snake was wont to haunt your house, why all reason it is she that hath done the deede, for she being long: might easily eate the cheese, although the trap did fall, yet because her body entered not in all, she might well & easily get out and scape. This neighbours saying did satisfie the whole company and especially my maister, which from that time forward neuer slept one night soundly, for when we had heard the least noice amongst the woode, he would thinke that it were the Snake gnawing the coffer, wherefore he would straight be vp with a cudgell, which sithence he entred into such suspition, was alwaies ready at his beds head, wherewith he would beate the poore coffer so hard, to feare the Snake that he waked all the neighbours with the noise. And as for me, I neuer slept, for often times in the night he would turne me and my pallet ouer and ouer, thinking that the Snake had gotten thither into my bed or into my apparell, for he was informed, that those beastes oftentimes seeking heate, haue come into chilozens Cradles, and bitten them to death. I would alwaies make as though I slept: thē he would in the morning say vnto me O Lazaro, hast thou heard no noise this night. I did pursue the Snake, and I was affrayd he had getten into thy bed, for they are colde, and therefore seeke heate. Then answered I, I pray God she hath not bitten me. I feare Snakes as the deuill. He continued in such fearfull fantasie, that he neuer slept, so that I being the Snake, durst neuer approch the coffer, but onely in the day time, whiles he was at Church, or abroade in the towne, then would I make my assault: whereof when he had knowledg, perceiuing that he was not able to finde any further remedy, would euery night (as I told you) be raging mad. All that I feared then was, that he with his diligence would meete with my priuy key which I had hid vnder the bedstrawe: but for more surety, at night time I would alwaies keepe it in my mouth, for when that I dwelt with the blinde man, I had brought my mouth to such vse by conuaying money into it, that it serued me often for a purpose. I can well remember when sometimes I haue had in it xiiii. or xv. deniers, and not hindred my eating, otherwise I had neuer bin

maister

maister of denier, but that the curst blind man would haue found it out, not leauing one seame or wrinckle of my coate vnsought. Therefore as I tell you, I did euery night put the key in my mouth for a safegarde, and by that meanes I slept soundly, not fearing that he should finde it. Notwithstanding, when that the euill houre could not be escaped, my diligence was al but vaine: it pleased my fatall destiny (or to say trueth) my sinnes, that vpon a night when I was a sleepe, the key hapned so to tourne in my mouth, being wide open, in such sorte, that my breath comming forth through the hole of the key, which was hollow, made such loude whistling (as euill fortune would) that my carefull maister heard it, who thought certainely that it had bin the hising of the Snake, (as surely it might be like) he rose vp softly, holding his cudgell fast, and by the noyce of the hissing came by little and little streight to me, without making any noyse, to the intent the snake should not heare him. When he was neere me, he thought certainely that the Snake was there in the strawe, wherefore he lifted vp his cudgell to kill her, and with all hys strength he discharged vpon my heade such a cruell blow, that he wounded me to death. Whereupon, he knowing that he had striken me, belike by the groning that I made after the receite of the blow, suspecting what had hapned, cryed out to awake me, but as soone as he touched me with his handes, he felt aboundance of blood issued out of my head: wherefore considering what hurt he had done me, he went in all hast for a candle, and retourning with it in his hand, found me groning and gasping with my key in my mouth, which I neuer let goe, being halfe out, euen as it was when it made such hissing, whereat the killer of Snakes marualled, especially when he beheld the key, which he tooke out of my mouth, and viewing it, he perceiued what it was, for in workemanship it differeth nothing from his. But for more suretie he went streight to proue it, and so then espyed the whole deceit: God knoweth then how he bragged, that he had taken the Rat and the Snake that had made him such warre, and that so destroyed his breade: what happned the three daies following I am not able to tel, for I was as it were in a Whales belly (but only this that I haue tolde you: which I had heard my maister

repoꝛt, after that I was retourned to my ſelfe, foꝛ he declared the whole matter to as many as came in and out. The third day after, I began to recouer, maruailing much, when I perceiued my ſelfe beeing in my ſtrawe, my heade full of plaiſters, oyles, and oyntments, and being thereat amazed, I ſayd what meaneth this? The prieſt then anſwered, the meaning of this is, that I had chaſed away the Rat and the Snake that haue done me ſuch hurte: then calling to minde my affaires, I ſuſpected my hurte, and the cauſe thereof: then came there an olde woman, with certaine of the neighbours, to vndoe the clouts about my heade and to dreſſe my woundes, and being glad to ſee me recouered, ſayd, there is no danger now in him, ſeeing that he hath his ſences, they began then to recite my afflictions, they laughing and I weeping. After all this, they gaue me meate, I beeing almoſt deade foꝛ hunger. Much a do they had to recouer me, but by little and little I waxed ſtrong, and at ſyx dayes ende, I roſe vp and was out of daunger, yet not without hunger, howbeit halfe healed, the next day after that I roſe, my maiſter tooke me by the hand, and brought me out at the doꝛe, and leauing me in the ſtreete, ſayd vnto me: Lazaro, from this day foꝛth, thou ſhalt be at thine owne liberty, and not vnder my ſubiection, the Loꝛd be with the: goe ſeeke thee a Maiſter, I haue no neede of ſuch a diligent ſeruant, it is not poſſible, but that thou haſt bin ſeruant to ſome blinde man. And there with bleſſing himſelfe from me, as though I had bin poſſeſſed with ſome euill ſpirit, he getteth him in and locketh faſt his doꝛe.

(..)

How

How Lazarillo placed himselfe with a Squier, and what things happened to him *in his service.*

BY this meanes I was forced to helpe my selfe being weake, and shortly after, I came by help of good people, to this noble citty of Toledo, where (I thanke my God) my wound closed up. As long as I was sicke, euery man gaue me his charity, but after that I was once whole, euery man would say, thou vacabond and loyterer, why doest thou not seeke a maister? Then I murmuring with my selfe, would say, and where the diuell shall I finde him, vnlesse God, as he made the world, make me one. But now I demaunding almes from doore to doore for Gods sake, I found little remedy, for charity had then ascended vp to heauen. At the last God caused me to meete with a Squier which walked through the streete, in verry sumptuous apparell, and cleanely, his pace in going well measured after good order. He beheld me, and I him, and he said vnto me: Boy doest thou want a maister? I answered, I would faine haue a good maister sir. Then follow me sayd he: God hath sent thee good fortune to meete with me, thou hast prayed well this day. I thanked God, for that which I haue heard him say, and that he seemed by his behauiour and countenance to be euen he, that I had so much longed for. I met with this third maister betime in the morning, and he led me after him through the most part of the citty: we passed through the market place, where there was solde breade, and other prouision: I looked when he would haue loaded me there with meate, for it was the, that euery man prouided & bought thinges necessary for their Dinner, but with comly and large pace he went by, and left that place behinde him, then said I to my selfe, peraduenture he doth not see heere any kinde of thinge

which

which doth content him, he will buy in another place: we walked so long that the clocke stroke eleuen, then went he to the chiefe Church, and I after him, where I saw him most deuoutly heare seruice, when all was ended, and the people departed, he came out of the Church and marched leysurely downe a streete: and as for me, I went ioyfully, the best content in the worlde, perceiuing how that we did not stay to seeke our dinner, immagining that this my new maister had bin some greate personage, and that he had his house prouided before hand, that we should finde dinner ready, yea such as I desired, and as I had neede of. At that time the clocke stroke one after noone, when we arriued at a house before the which my maister had stayd I with him, then he throwing his cloake ouer his left shoulder verycinilly, drew a key out of his sleue to open his doore, we then entered in, the enterance wherof was so darke and vnhandsome, that it might feare any man liuing to enter in it, howbeit there was within it a pretty little court and resonable chambers: and when wee were within, he putteth off his cloake, demaunding me wether my handes were cleane, we shooke it, and then doubled it handsomely, and after he had blowen cleanely the dust away from an olde bench that was there, he layd it by: that beeing done, he sat him downe, demaunding of me at large what countrey man I was, and how I came to the Citty: I gaue him a larger account than I was willing: for I thought it a more conuenient time to commaund me to lay the cloth, and to take out pottage, than to make such enquirance: yet for all that, bringing forth the best lyes I could frame for my selfe, I made him account what I was, reconing all the goodnesse that was in my personage, leauing apart all that which I thought was not to be rehearsed in that place: when I had declared all, he stayed a while, and by that time I did see an euill signe: for it was almost two a clocke, and yet he was no redier to dine t'en he that had bin deade. I marualed moreouer, when I perceiued that he had locked the doore with his key, and that I could not heare any liuing creature stur, neither aboue, nor beneath: all that euer I did see was the naked wales, not so much, as a chaire or stoole, nor a table, nor yet a cofer, as the other man had: finally you would haue

sayd

sayd, it had beene a house, not inhabited. A while after he demaunded me whether I had dined. I answered saying, no sir, for it was not eight a clocke when I met with your maistership this morning, (then sayd he) as early as it was, I had broke my fast, and whensoeuer I breake my fast in the morning, I neuer eate againe vntill it be night, therefore passe thou ouer the time as well as thou canst, and wee will make amends at supper: your worship may well thinke that when I heard these words I was ready to fall downe deade, not so much for hunger, as for plainely perceiuing, that then fortune was altogether mine enimie. Then began my sorrowes to appeare vnto me againe, and I to lament my misfortune: then came there to my minde, the consideration that I made when I was about to depart from the Priest, weighing with my selfe, that although he was most wretched and miserable, yet peraduenture I might meete with a worse, finally, I lamented and wept my troublesome life that was past, and my death that did approch: and yet for all this I dissembled the matter as well as I could, and sayd vnto him, sir I thanke God, I am a boy that doth not greatly care for eating and drinking, for I may well compare with any of my age for sobernesse and measure in eating, and so haue I bin alwayes esteemed of as many maisters as I haue serued: he then answered saying, it is a vertue to liue soberly, therefore I commend thee much: Hogs fill themselues, and wise men eate discreetly, what is only sufficient for them. I now vnderstand you well sir, said I to my selfe, euill lucke light vpon such vertue and goodnesse as these my maisters doe finde in hunger: immediatly after this, I conuaied my selfe behinde the doore, where I drew certaine peeces of breade out of my bosome, which were left of that which I had receiued for Gods sake two dayes before. But he perceiuing me, sayd, come hither boy, what doest thou eate? I came vnto him, and did shew the breede, whereof he tooke a peece, which of two or three was the best and the biggest, saying by my soule me thinks this breade is good and sauarouse: yea mary sir, at this time especially, sayd I. Is it so indeede sayd he, but where hadst thou it, was it moulded with cleane handes? that I know not sayd I, howbeit I finde it good. I pray God it be cleane, said the

poore Gentlman: and with that putting his hand to his mouth, deuoured quickly all that I had giuen him: and somewhat before we had ended he said, by God this bread hath a good taste, how sauorous it is. And as for me then, I perceiued vpon which foot he halted, I made hast to eat, perceiuing him to be so disposed, that if he had made an ende before me, I thought he would gently haue offered to helpe me: therefore we ended both at one time in good order. He beganne then with his hand to brush away a fewe crummes, which had falne vpon his brest, and after that entered into a chamber that was there, & thence brought out an olde pot broken mouthed, and dranke well, and then he offered me the pot. But I to seeme sober and modest, sayd sir I drinke no wine: it is water, said he, thou mayst well drinke of it: then I tocke the pot, but I dranke not much, for it was not thirst, but hunger troubled me. We passed the time so vntil that it was night, reasoning of sundry matters which he demanded of me, wherevnto I answered as well as I could. Then we entred into a chamber from whence he had brought foorth his drinking potte, bee saying: boy, go to the other side, and marke howe we make this bed, that thou maist knowe howe to make it from henceforth. I went to the one side, and he to the other, and made the poore bed, which was an easie matter to do, for it was thus as I will tell you: A sheepes burdell layde ouerthwarte two trestles, a silly rotten harde mattresse, and vppon that his bed clothes, which by reason of seldome washing could not be discernd in colour from the mattresse, the which had not halfe so much woull as need required: we turned it to make it softe, but that was vnpossible to doe, for verie harde it is for a man to make a harde thing softe, and the diuell a thing was within the cruell mattresse at all, for when it was spread vpon the burdle of big stickes, euery sticke appeared thorow, euen as like as could be, to the ribs of a carian leane dog. We spred vpō the hungry miserable mattris, a couerlet suteable, what stuffe it was off, I cannot well deuise: before that we hadde made the beddes it was night, and he said: Lazoro, it is nowe late, and from hence to the market place where prouision of meate is solde, it is a long waye, and besides that ruffians and theeues doe meete men euery night to spoile them of their cloakes and

capes

capes in the darke, therefore let vs passe ouer this night as well as we may, to morrow God will prouide better for vs, I am not prouided of meate because because I haue bin hetherto alone without a seruant, and I haue alwaies taken my meales in the Citty, but from hence forth we will keepe a newe order: sir said I, take no care for me, I can passe ouer one night, & more if neede be without meate, and that wil be cause that thou shalt liue the longer sayd he, for as wise men affirme, there is nothing that can make a man' liue longer then to eate a little. If that be true sayd I to my selfe, I shall neuer die, for I haue alwaies bin constrained to keepe that rule, and I thinke I am fortuned to obserue it as long as I liue. After all this, he went to bed, making his hose and his dublet his bolster, and causing me to lye at his feete, where I neuer slept winke, for the hard hurdle neuer left galling my naked bones, which by hunger and sorrow together, had not left on them nor yet on all my body besides, an ounce of flesh: and as I chanced to eate nothing that day, my braine was so light, that I could neuer take rest. Wherefore (God forgiue me) I cursed my selfe and my fortune a thousand times, and that which was worse then all this, I neuer durst change sides for feare of waking him: wherfore I desired death. The next morning when he rose, he began to shake and to make cleane his hose, his dublet and his cloake, I was his brush, so he araide himselfe at leisure: I gaue him then water for his hands, and when he had occupyed his combe, he taketh his sworde and kisseth the pommell, and as he was putting it to his girdle, sayd vnto me: my boy, if thou knewest what a blade this is, thou wouldest matuaile, there is no gold that can buy it of me, for of as many as Antonio made, he could neuer giue such temper to any as he gaue this: then drawing it out of the scabbard hee tasted the edge with his fingers, saying, seest thou it? I dare vnder take to cut asunder with it a whole peece of wooll: I answered him softely to my selfe, saying & I with my teeth though they be not of such hard mettal a loafe of bread weighing iiii. pound. Then vp went ẏ sword againe, hanging it at his girdle, & after all this he marched into the streete leasurely, and making with his head a good countenance, casting his cloake sometimes on his sholder, & otherwhiles vnder his arme, w̃ his right hand alwaies on his side:

and as he was going forth sayd, *Lazaro*, looke well about the house, while I do goe and heare seruice, make the bedde, & then fetche some water here at the riuer beneath. locke the doze least any body rob vs, and lay the key vnderneath the threshold, that I may come in: hee went vp the streete with such comely gesture & countenaunce, that he that had not knowne him would haue iudged him to haue bene nere kinsmen vnto the high Constable of Spaine, or at the least his chiefe chamberlein I remained then alone, saying to my selfe, blessed art thou O God which sendest the sickneſſe and giuest the remedie, who would thinke, that should meete my Lord and master, with such gesture & countenance, but that he had supped well yesternight, yea & that he had slept in a good bed, & although it be now early, who would thinke but that he had broken his fast well? Great are thy secret doings O Lord and all thy people are ignorant of them: might not his good disposition, his reasonable cloke and coate deceiue any man? who woulde distruste that such a noble Gentleman had eaten nothing all yesterday, but one peece of breade which his seruant *Lazaro* had kept in the chest of his bosom a day & a night, so ỹ it could not be (to say the truth) very cleane: who wolde suspect that hee had dried this morning his face and his hands vpon the skirts of his coate for want of a towell, I am certaine no man would iudge it in him. O Lorde howe many are there in the worlde, that are in such bragery as this my master is in, which doe suffer more for a litle vaine glories sake, than they would do for the loue of thee. I stoode in the doore so long remembring all those things that my master passed thorow a long & narow streete: then I went in, and with in a minut of an houre, I visited the whole house aboue and beneath with out staying or finding where at to stay. When I had made the vnlucky bedde, I tooke my pot and went streight to the Riuer, and being ready to take vp my water, I might perceiue my master in a Garden ouer the water in great talke with two comely women, which by their countenaunce seemed to be some of them, whereof in *Toledo* a number are riſely found: and many of them take an vse of going abroade early in the morning in Sommer time, to take the ayre in those gardens, and to breake their fast without prouision of their owne,

he-

vnder trees and shadowes, neere that same pleasant Riuer there, trusting to finde out some that would bestow charges vpon them, especially such as they had accustomed thereto, such lusty young Souldiers of the cittie as delighted in such pastime. He was (as I meane to tell you) betweene these women deuising and counterfaiting all kinde of brauery, reciting more pleasant and sweete wordes than euer Ouid wrote: but when he perceiued their beauty had vanquished him cleane, & that he was left without shame, they demanded of him their breakefast, and he therefore to haue the accustomed payment. Whereupon he being as colde in the purse as he was hotte in the stomacke, fell in such a trance, that he lost all the colour in his face, his tongue not able to talke, was faine to alledge vaine excuses. But they which in their science were well instructed, when they perceiued his infirmity, they gaue him ouer for such one as he was indeede. All this while I was breaking my fast with stalkes of colworts, & whē I had done, like a diligent seruant, not seene of my maister, returned home, meaning to sweepe some part of the house that had most neede: but I could not finde where withall to doe the deede. Wherefore not knowing what to doe, I began to muse wherein I should occupy my selfe, & after study, I determyned to tary vntil noone that my master came, for peraduenture he would bring somethinge with him for vs to eate: wherefore I taried his comming, yet all for nothing, for it was nowe two a clocke, and hee not yet come: but because hunger oppressed me sore, I came out & locked the doore, laying the key where he had commanded, with a lowe and a sorrowfull voice, my handes thrust into my bosome, I began to returne to my former practise, in somuch that hauing GOD before mine eyes, and my tongue, in his name, I fell to beg bread from doore to doore, and from house to house, where I thought best to speede, hauing learned this trade in my sucking yeares, I meane with the blinde maister, I became such a scholler, that although in that Citty there was small charity, nor the peace was not abundant, yet notwithstanding I had put my affaires in such good order, that before the clocke stroke foure, I had layde a pound of bread in my belly, and twice as much in my bosome and sleeues, I returned then homeward and in my way wente

thorowe the streets where they solde tripes, where I demanded a woman that was there hir charitie, she gaue mee a piece of a neats foote, and a few sodden tripes. When I came home, my curteouse master was within, hauing folded his cloake and laid it vp, walking vp and downe the court: and as soone as he did see mee, he came towards mee, wherefore I feared he would haue beaten me, because I had taried so long, but it was not Gods will. The first thing he demaunded mee, was, where I had bin? I answered, sir I was here vntill it was two a clocke, & when I perceiued that your maistership came not, I went forth into the citie, to recommend my selfe to good people, which haue giuen me thus much for gods sake, and so shewed him the tripes which I kept in the skirt of my coate, whereat hee made no angrie countenance, but sayde, I haue tarried for thee to dinner, and because I could not see thee come, I dined alone, as for thee thou hast done like an honest boy for it is better to beg than to steale, as God helpe mee I am of that opinion: one thing onely I will desire thee to do, that thou wilt not let them know that thou doost dwell with me, nor that I am thy maister: For that touched mine honor, and I do not doubt but that will be kept secret, for very few do know me in this city, I would to God I had neuer come to it. Of that matter sir take you no care, sayd I, for no man will aske me that question, I need not therefore make such accompt to any of them. But why doest thou not fall nowe to thy victels poore soule, if it bee Gods will wee shall soone be out of this miserie: thou shalt vnderstande, that sithence I came in hither. I had neuer good houre, this house is surely built in an vnhappye place, and certainely some houses are so vnlucky, that looke whosoeuer doth dwell within them, he shal be sure to haue euill fortune. But I promise thee, that as soone as the moneth is ended, I will not dwell here, (no though they would giue it me rent free.) I sat downe then, and because he should not think me a couetous glutton, I drewe out my victles, and there began to suppe honestly, biting my tripes with my breade handsomely, beholding dissemblingly my miserable maister, which had his eye alwayes vpon my skirte, being at that time my onely platter. GOD take such compassion on me as I did then vp-

on

on him, for I had oftentimes endured that sorrow which tormented him: wherefore I imagined with my selfe, how I might wel iniure him: but because he tolde me that he had dyned, I was afraide least hee would refuse the banquet. Finallye, I wished that he would haue eased his paine, by helpe of mine, and that he would haue eaten with me for company, as he had done the day before, especially, because that then I had better vittles, and more store, and moreouer that then my hunger was lesse: it pleased God to accomplish my desire and his together, for when as I had begon my meat, as he walked he came neere to me, saying, Lazaro I promise thee thou hast the best grace in eating that euer I did see any man haue, for there is no man that seeeth thee eate, but by seeing thee feede, shall haue appetite, although they be not a hungred. Then would I say to my selfe, the hunger which thou sustainest, causeth thee to thinke mine so bentifull: then I trusted I might helpe him, seeing that he had so helped himselfe, and had opened me the way thereto: wherefore I sayd vnto him, Sir, the good tooles make the workman good, this bread hath good taste, and this neats foote is so well sodde, and so cleanely dressed, that it is able with the sauor of it onely, to entice any man to eate of it: What is it a neates foote? yea sir: now I promise thee it is the best morsell in the world, there is no Fesant that I would like so well: I pray you sir proue of it better and see how you like it. I deliuered then vnto his nailes the neates foote, with two or three peeces of the whitest bread that I had, wherevpon he sitteth downe by me, and there began to eate like one that had greate neede, gnawing euery one of those little bones, better then any greyhound could haue done for life, saying, this is a singuler good meate, and I to my selfe sayd, the sauce that thou eatest withall is better. By God I haue eaten it with as good a stomacke, as if I had eaten nothing all this day before: then I with a lowe voice sayd, God send me to liue long, assure as that is true, & hauing ended his vittales, he commanded me to reach him the potte of water, which I gaue vnto him as full as I had brought it from the Riuer, and it was a signe that sithence hee wanted no water, that the residue of his dinner was but small, we dranke both of the pott, and

went

went to bed, as the night before, at that time well satisfied.

And now to auoide long talke, we continued after this sorte eight or nine dayes: and the poore Gentleman went euery day to braue it out in the streete, to content himselfe with his accustomed stately pace, and alwayes I poore Lazaro was faine to be his purueior, I often times considered my disgraces, that escaping from euill maisters which I had, that vsed me euill, and seeking better, I happened to meete now with him, who not only did not maintaine me, but whom I was faine to maintaine, or els he to dye, yet for all that, I loued him well, perceiuing that he was able to doe no more: yea and I did pitty him, rather then hate him, for oftentimes with carrying him home wherewith to passe the day, I felt griefe my selfe. One morning, the poore Gentleman rose vp in his shirt, and went vp to the toppe of the house, to ease himselfe, and in the meane season to be out of the suspition that I was in, I vnfolded his dublet & his hose, which were his boulster, and there found a little purse of veluet, which had a hundred wrinkles in it, but the diuell a penny, nor yet any signe that there had bin any long time before. Then did I say to my selfe, this man is poore, no man can giue that which he hath not: but my couetous blinde man, and my wretched priest, vnto whom God hath giuen so much goods, that one got with smooth hand, the other gained with his loose tonng, and yet they famished me continually: there was good reason why I should hate such people: so is the cause, why this mans case should be lamented. God knoweth that when I met with any of his estate, being of like grauitie, pace, and countenance, how I pitied them, thinking that they did euer indure that which I did see him daily suffer, whome I had rather serue for all his pouertie, than any of the other, for the causes aboue named. I did like him well, but only that me thought he was too presumptuous, where I often wished, that seeing he so plainlie perceiued his owne pouertie, he would something haue bid his fantasticall pride. But as I thinke, it is a common vsuall rule amongst such as bee, which though they haue not a crosse in the world, nor a Denere, the Cap must needs stand in his olde place: but if GOD of his mercy do not ouer the matter, all such are like to dye of that

vile

vile disease. As I continued in such estate, sustaining the life that I haue tolde you, my euill fortune which neuer ceased to pursue me, would not yet suffer me to continue in that troublesome and shamefull kinde of life. For the matter hapned thus: the Lordes of the counsell made proclamation with sound of trumpet because that yeare there was scarcitie of corne, al poore people being strangers should forsake the Citty, vpon paine that he which from thence forth should be taken, should be punnished with stripes: and so executing the law, within three daies after the proclamation, I saw a whole procession of poore folke, whipped through the foure principall streetes, which sight did so feare me that neuer after I durst venture to begge. Then might you haue seene a strange diet we kept at home, and the grete silence that was there, so ý we were constrained to fast two or three dayes together, without eating any morsell, or speak a worde, and as for me, the best shifte I made, was amongst certaine poore women, which were spinners and cappe knitters, which saued my life, by reason of the acquaintance I had with them, being our neere neighbours: For of that meate they had, I should haue a little, wherewith I did not so lament mine owne case, as I did my poore maisters, whith in eight dayes did not eate one morsell, at the least, we were so long at home without meate, but indeede I know not whether he went, nor what hee did eate abroade, yet notwithstanding, for all this, you should see him come sometimes by the streete, with a body as large as any greyhounds of good race: and for to maintaine his poore honor, he was wont to take a strawe in his hand, whereof also there was want in our house, and standing without the doore, would therewith picke those which had little neede of picking, for any thing that had stucke in them with eating. Lamenting still the vnluckinesse of that house, he would say, it greeueth me, to see how all our sorrow commeth of this house, thou seeest howe vncomfortable and darke it is, and as long as we dwell here, we are like to be thus tormented, therefore I would to God the moneth were ended that we might depart out of it. And as we continued in this afflicted and famishing persecution, one day a tidal entred into the power of my maister, I know not by what good Six pen English.

lucke and aduenture, wherewith he came home so blowing as if he had brought with him the whole treasure of Venice, and so with a merry and lively countenance he giueth it to me saying, take here Lazaro, now God beginneth to open his hand, and to smile vpon vs, goe quickely to the market place, and buy bread, wine and flesh, that wee may breake the diuels enuious eye: and furthermore, bicause thou shalt haue good cause to reioyce, thou shalt vnderstand, that I haue hired an other house, therefore the moneth once ended, we will no longer abide in this miserable vnlucky house, cursed be it, and he that layd the first tile on it, for in euill time did I come in. By our Lord all the time that I haue bin here I neuer dranke dropp of wine, nor a morsell of flesh entred into my belly, nor yet haue I had any rest in it, such is the sorrow and misery that belongeth to it. goe thy waies and make speede, and let vs dine this day like Earles. Then I tooke my riall and my pot, and with all haste, I began to goe vp the streete, towards the market place, with ioy and mirth. But what profiteth all this, now that I am borne vnder such a planet that I can neuer enioy any pleasure long, without hindrance, (it appeareth so now) for as I went on my way, making my account how I should bestow my money vpon that which should be most profitable and best, giuing infinite thankes to God (that he had giuen my master that money) vpon a suddaine I might see right before me a deade coarse comming downe the streete, accompanied with many Priestes and other people: I leaned to the wall to giue them place, and the coarse went by, I might see a woman which belike was the dead mans wife following the beer, all in morning weede, accompanied with other women, and shee weeping and lamenting, sayd: O my husband and my lord, alas whether doe they carry you? to the vncomfortable and sad house, to the darke and sorrowfull house, to the house where they neuer eate nor drinke: when I had heard her speake these wordes, me thought heauen and earth had met, and I sayd: O vnfortunate wretch that I am, they carry this deade coarse to our house: wherefore I forsooke my way, and brake in betweene the people, and running downe the streete as fast as euer I could, I got into the house, and when I entred therein, I locked the doore

with

with all haſt, calling out to my maiſter for helpe, and embracing him, I deſired his ayde to keepe them out: wherof he was ſomewhat amazed, thinking it had beene ſome other matter, ſayd, what is the matter boy? what ayleth thee to crye out ſo? why doeſt thou locke the dooze with ſuch fury? O ſir (then I anſwered) I pray you helpe me, for they bring vs in here a dead courſe. How ſo ſayd he? I met with the courſe aboue in the ſtreete, and his wife followed him, ſaying, O my huſband and my Lord, whether doe they carry you? to the vncomfortable and ſad houſe to the darke and ſorrowfull houſe, to the houſe where they neuer eate nor drinke? therefore without doubt, ſir they doe bring him in here to you. Now truely when my maiſter heard this, although he had no great cauſe to be ioyfull, he laughed ſo earneſtly, that he ſtoode a good while and could not ſpeake. In this meane ſeaſon, I had barred the dooze, and for more ſurety, had layd my ſhoulders againſt it. The people paſſed by with their courſe, and yet ſtill I was afrayd, and durſt not remoue, leaſt they would bring him in: and when my maiſter had ſatisfied himſelfe with laughing, though not with meate, he ſayd vnto mee, truely Lazaro, thou haſt ſayd the trueth, and according to the widdowes crying wordes, thou hadſt good reaſon to ſuſpect that which thou haſt ſayd ſayd; but now, ſeeing God hath dealt better with vs than ſo, and that they are paſt vs, open the dooze, and goe to buy vs ſome meate. Sir, then ſayd I, let them be firſt be all paſt. In the ende my maiſter came and opened the dooze againſt my will, and it was as much as he could doe, I helde it ſo hard, being in greate feare. Then he cauſed me to returne to my voiage, and although we dyned well that day, notwithſtanding, I found no taſte at all in my meate, nor within three dayes after I neuer recouered my owne colour, and as often as the remembrãce of theſe vaine things came to my maſters mind he was neuer able to ſtay himſelfe from laughing. After ſuch ſort I continued a time wᵗ this my third poore maſter which was a Squier ſeeking continually occaſiõ to know his eſtate & for what cauſe he had come to dwel in this citie, for I perceiued that he was a ſtranger, by reaſon he had ſo little acquaintance with thoſe of the city finally my wiſh was accõpliſhed & I vnderſtãd that which I

couetes to knowe: for vpon a day, after that he had dyned reasonably well, he being at that time indifferently well satisfied, declared vnto me his affaires, in so much that he certified me, that he was borne in Castilia the old, and how that he had forsaken his countrey for nothing in the world, but because he would not abase himselfe so much, as put off his Cap to a Gentleman his neighbour: and hauing heard all his discourse, I said vnto him, sir if he were such a one as you say, and besides that, if he were richer than you, it had beene but your dutie to put off your cap first to him, for I beleeue he would haue done the like to you. Indeed he is a Gentleman, and richer than I, and he would alwayes put off his Cappe to the vttermost, when I did put off mine, but seeing that oftentimes mine was first off, reason would haue required, that his should once haue beene first, and so haue woone of me by quick hand the courtesie. As for me said I, I would neuer haue had regard to that. Thou art a childe said he, and therefore thou knowest not what dooth belong to honour, which at this day is the onely refuge of such as be honest: therefore thou shalt vnderstand, that I am as thou seest, a poore Esquire, and I make a vowe to God, that if I should meete in the midst of the streete an Earle, that would not put his Cap altogether off, as well as I do mine, the next time I see him come, I will enter into some house, as if I had some businesse there, or else crosse ouer into an other streete, if there be any betweene me and him, so that I shall not neede to put off my cap to him, for a Gentleman is bound to none, but to God and the Prince, and therefore it is reason that an honest man shall be curious to esteeme his owne person. I doe remember that vpon a day, I dishonoured, and had almost beaten a crafts man where I was borne, because that whensoeuer he met me, he would say, Mantenga deos a vim, which is to say, Sir, God maintaine your worship: I tooke him once with the deede, and said, how now sir clowne, what meane you by this, who hath so instructed you, doth it become you to say vnto me, God maintaine you, euen as I were one of the common sort? From thenceforth he would put off his Cappe to me a farre off, and salute me as he ought. Why sir, says I, was not that kinde of salutation good enough for any

any man, is it not sufficient for a man to say God maintaine your maistership? he answered angerly, thou must knowe in an euill houre, that that kinde of salutation is vsed to a meane man, but no man ought to salute one of my estate after such a sort, but alwayes he ought to say Bese les manos de virum, which is as much to say, as I kisse your worships hands, or at the least Besos senuor las manos I do kisse your hands, if so be that he that saluteth me be a knight or a Gentleman: so from that day forward I could neuer abide to heare talke of maintenance, nor suffer any man, vnlesse it were the king, to say vnto me, sir God mainteine you. Alas wretch that I am (said I to my selfe) that is the cause, that he hath so little care to mainteine thee, for thou canst abide no man to wish it thee. Furthermore he said, I am not so poore, but that I haue in my countrey, ground, where foundation of houses is well and surely laide, which if they were built vp as they ought, sumptuous and great, and by exchange placed in Valladelid, sixteene mile on this side the place where I was borne, they would be worth no lesse than a thousand Marauedis: and I haue a Douehouse, which if it were built vp as it is now falne, it would yeeld me yearely aboue two hundred pigeons: beside other things which I will not speake of, all which things I forsooke, for matters which touched mine honor, and came to this citie, meaning to serue one of the chiefe Nobles, but it happened otherwise with me: I finde indeed many Doctors and Prebends belonging to the Church, but they keepe such modest orders, that all the world is not able to bring them out of their pace: many Gentlemen which are of the baseſt sorte, couet to haue me, but to serue such men is great trauell, for from a man, you must become a Clokebag, or elſe they will streight bid you farewell, and most commonly, their wages is paide with long termes, sometime your meate and drinke onely for your painfull seruice. And when they meane to reforme their conscience, and to consider the seruants paine, there shall be deliuered out of the wardrobe, some cut doublet, or some thred bare cloake, or coate: but when a man serueth a Noble man of the Order, he shall better passe ouer his miserie: but peraduenture there is not in me abilitie to serue and to content such men. By God, if I

Two and thirtie marauedies is vi. pence English.

had met with one of thē, I think certainly, I should quickly haue beene chiefe of his counsell, for I would haue done him a thousand kinde of seruices. I could haue dissembled as well as any other, yea and pleased him a thousand folde, that it would haue been marueilous, I would haue smiled merily at his doings, although they had not beene the best in the worlde, I would neuer haue recited that which should haue displeased him, no although it had beene much for his profit, most diligent about his person in word and deed, neuer vering my selfe about the well doing of things that should neuer come to his sight, but sometimes haue chid such as serued, where he might heare me, that I might seeme to be carefull about that which touched him: and whensoeuer he should happen to fall out with any of his men, then would I put forth two or three smoothe wordes to set him forward, which should seeme to be in the fauour of the offender, affirming alwayes that which I thought he liked of: and on the contrarie side, a malicious mocker of the ignorant and rude sort: furthermore, I would alwayes demaunde and procure, how to know the liues of strangers, to account them vnto him, with other such tricks of like qualitie, which at this day are vsed in great Palaces and Courts, and which please the chiefe dwellers herein, which cannot abide to see in their houses vertuous men, but do abhorre and esteeme them as nought, despising and calling them fooles, & ignorant in the traffick of weightie affaires, so that the Lord cannot safely truste to their simple doings in weightie matters: therefore now a dayes, those that are subtill and craftie, get into fauour, and vse such meanes as I would haue vsed, if fortune would haue suffered me to haue found out such a noble Lord.

After this sort my maister lamented his euill fortune, making relation vnto me, what a valiant person he was. And being in such talke, there commeth in to vs, a man, and an olde woman, the man demanded the rent of the house, and the woman the hier of the bed, & there made streight wayes accounts, so that he for two moneths, was indebted more than he was able to pay in a whole yere. I thinke his debts came to xii. or xiii. ryals of plate: he gaue them gentle answers, that he would goe to the market place to

change

change a double peece of golde, desiring them to come againe in the euening, but his departure was without returne. When euening came, they returned, but it was too late, wherefore I tolde them that he was not yet come: the night being come, and he not, I was afraide to lye alone in the house, therefore I went to my neighbours, and there declared vnto them the whole matter, and there lay all night. The next day in the morning, the Creditors came and enquired for my maister, (but at the other doore I pray you) vnto whom the women answered: there is his seruant, with the key of the doore: they demanded me for him. I answered, that I knew not where he was, for he was not come home since he went abroade to change his golde, and that therefore I thought that he was gone both from them and me with the exchange. When they heard me say so, they goe streight and seeke a Sergeant and a Scriuener, and assoone as they had brought them thither, without delay they tooke the key and opened the doore in the presence of witnesse, and entred in to sequester on my maisters goods, that the debt might be paide them. But when they had sought the house all ouer, they found it as empty as I haue tolde you, wherefore they demaunded of me where my maisters goods were conuaied, his Chestes his Tapistrie, and his houshold stuffe. I answered saying, I know nothing that he hath sir: without doubt they haue bin taken away this night say they, and carried to some other place, therefore maister Sergeant take holde on this boy, for he knoweth all: then the officer approcheth vnto me, and taking fast holde on the coller of my coate, sayd, thou art prisoner, vnlesse thou tell where thy maister his goods are become: but as neuer no man hath taken holde of me in that place before sauing only my blinde maister, who neuer layd hand on me so rudely, but gently, that I might leade him that could not see. I was affraid, and crying mercy, I promised to tel all that they demanded. Go to thē, say they, say on gods name what thou knowest, and be not affraide: the Scriuener sitteth downe in hast, to write the Inuentorie, demanding what goods he had. I then began to declare what I knew, saying, sir, the goods that he hath, or at least which he told me he had, was a piece of ground where foundation of houses is laid, & also a Doue house, which is faine.

Well.

Well sayd (say they) my boy, though that be little worth, it is sufficient to pay vs. In what place of the Citty standeth it, (say they) I answered, marry it standeth a good way hence in his owne countrey. The matter is then in a faire case (say they) but where is his countrey: he tolde me that he was borne in Castilia the olde: the Sergeant, and Scriuener, laughing apace sayd, this confession is sufficient for you to recouer the debt (though it were greater) the neighbours that were there present sayd, this childe is an innocent, and he hath not dwelt long with the Squier, therefore he knoweth no more of him then you doe, he hath oftentimes come to vs, and we haue giuen him such meate as we had, for Gods sake, and at nights gone in to lye with his maister: when they perceiued my innocency, they did set me at liberty. The Sergeant and the Scriuener did demaund of the man and the woman their fee, whereupon there rose great contention, and they alleaged that they were not bound to pay, seeing that there was no execution made, especially, seeing there was not wherewithall: the officers alleged: for that comming they had left vndone matters of greater importance: finally, after many angry words, a poore carier was loaden with the olde matteris, which was the womans, scant halfe a loade to the bearer: then went they all fiue out together chiding what became of them after, I know not, I beleeue the poore matteris payd for all. And thus as I tel you, I lost my third maister when as I fully perceiued euill fortune wrought altogether against me, insomuch that my affaires went so backeward, that whereas maisters are wont to be forsaken of their seruants, it was not so with me, but my maister was faine to forsake me yea and runne away in all hast.

How

Hovv Lazaro placeth himselfe to dwell vvith a Frier of the Abbey of Grace.

I Was then constrained to seeke the fourth maister, which was a Frier of the Abbey of Grace, vnto whome the poore women which I haue tolde you of, preferred me: they called him cousin. This man was an enemie to the Quire, not liking well of his meales in the couent, a man lost for going abroade, desirous to see worldy affaires and visitations, wherefore I thinke that he alone did teare moe shoes than all the rest of his brethren: it was he that gaue me the first shooes that euer I wore in all my life, which lasted me but eight dayes, for he neuer left trotting abroad: wherefore for this, and for other small matters, which at this time I will not speake of, I was faine to forsake him.

How Lazaro placeth himselfe vvith a Pardoner, and what things happened to him in his seruice.

I Met by euill chance with the fifth maister, which was an vtterer of Pardons, the disceitfullest marchant and the most shamelesse, that euer I did see, or any manels: for to dispatch away his pardons, he had fine meanes and trafficke, and daily imagined therefore most subtill inuentions. As soone as hee arriued to such townes, where he should vtter his pardons, he would first present some gifte of small value or sub-

stance to the Priests and Curates of that place: sometimes a Cabbadge, Lettis, a couple of Lemmons or Oranges: otherwhiles an Apricock, or else a couple of Peaches, or at the least, to euery one a faire Peare: and by that meanes he went about to make them his friends, that they might fauour his affaires, and cause their parishoners to receiue the pardons: yea, and that they should thanke him, he would alwaies be informed before he came, which were learned, and which not. When he came to those which he vnderstood were learned, he would be sure neuer to speake word of Latin, for feare of stumbling: but vsed in such places, a gentle kinde of Castilian Spanish, his toung alwayes at libertie: and contrariwise whensoeuer hee was informed of the reuerend *Dominis* (I meane such as are made priestes, more for money than for learning and good behauiour) to heare him speake amongst suche men, you would saye it were S. Thomas: for he would then, two houres together talke latin at least which seemed to be, though it was not. When that they receiued not his pardons friendly, he sought meanes to make them to take them perforce: so that oftentimes, he heerefore molested the parishioners, otherwhiles causing them to receiue them by subtile inuentions. And now, seeing that it were too long to account all such parts as I did see him vse: I will recite one, whereby he shewed right well how sufficient he was. He had preached two or three dayes in a Village within the diocesse of the Archbishop of Toledo, without omitting any part of his accustomed diligence, and the people had not taken one pardon, nor no man (as farre as I could perceiue) was minded to receiue any: wherefore he was in great rage. And as he imagined what he had best to do, determined to inuite and bid all the people to come thither the next day, so to dispatche his pardons, and that night after supper, he and his Sergeant went to play for their breakefast, and as they played, they fell at such debate, that the one gaue euill wordes to the other: Insomuch, that at the last he said to his Sergeant, that he was a thiefe, and the Sergeant answered, saying that he was a falsifier, wherefore the Commissarie my maister layde hand vpon a short pike that stood behinde the doore where they played,

any

and the Sergeant, on the other side, put hand to his sword which hung by his side. so that with the great noyse that we made, our Hoast and our neighbours came in, and went betweene them: then they being soze angry, sought all meanes to come together, that the one might kill the other: but the house was so full of people, that they could by no meanes come neere to one another, wherefore they never left, giuing one another iniurious words, in so much that the Sergeant said to my maister, that he was a falsifier, and that the Pardons which he preached of daily, were most false. To be briefe, when the people perceiued that they could by no meanes pacifie them, they determined to carrie the Sergeant away to an other lodging, and my maister remained still there in great rage. Whereupon our Hoast, with his neighbours, desired him hartily that he would forget his anger, and goto bed: and so then we went all to sleepe. Assoone as day appeared in the morning, my maister went to the Church, and caused them there to ring to Masse, and to Sermon, that he might dispatch his Pardons: then the people assembled together, murmuring amongst themselues at the Pardons, saying that they were false and nothing worth, seeing that the Sergeant himselfe had affirmed the same: So that before that time, they hauing small minde to receiue any, they then vtterly abhorred thē. Maister Commissarie mounteth vp into the pulpit, and beginneth his Sermon, encouraging the people not to forsake such great gentlenesse and indulgence, as the holy pardon conteined: and being in the midst of his sermon, the Sergeant commeth in at the Church doore, and when that he had ended his prayers, he rose vp suddenly, and with a loude voyce discreetly said: Yee honest and godly people, giue eare, that I may tell you a worde or two, and then heare whom yee will. I am come hither in the company of this Crowe-keeper which now preacheth, who hath deceiued me, promising, that if I would help him in his affaires, I should haue halfe the gaines. But now perceiuing the damage that my conscience should receiue, & besides that, the losse of your goods, I do repent that which I haue done, & I tell you plainly, the pardons he hath brought, are false: therefore ye ought not to beleeue him,

All Sergants in Spaine doe beare a white rod in their handes, higher then themselues by halfe a foot is big as a mans finger

nor yet take any of them. As for me, I will neither be partaker with him one waye or other, therefore from this time forwarde, I do forsake the rodde of them, which I now cast to the ground: for if hereafter he be punished for his falshood, you may be witnesse with me that I am no doer with him herein, nor yet helpe him, but doe rather bewray vnto you his craft and falshood: and when he had said all, certaine men of honour which were there, would needs haue cast him out of the Church, to auoide slaunder: but my maister did forbid them so to doe, commaunding them all vpon paine of excommunication, to suffer him to say all that euer hee could, and hee himselfe kept Silence whiles that the Sergeant declared all that which I haue rehearsed: and as soone as hee helde his tounge, my maister demaunding him whether hee would saye any more: the Sergeant aunswered, there may be much more sayd of thee, and of thy falshood, but at this time this is sufficient.

Then my maister Commissarie, falling downe vpon his knees in the Pulpit, holding vp his hands, his eyes looking vp to heauen, sayde these words: O Lorde God, from whome nothing is hid, vnto whome all things are manifest, and vnto whome nothing is vnpossible, who can doe all things, thou knowest the trueth, and how vniustly I am accused and slandered: as for me (O Lorde) I forgiue him, that thou maiest forgiue me. Haue no regarde to him that knoweth not what he dooth nor saieth: notwithstanding, O Lorde, I doe beseech thee: and through iustice I demaund of thee, that thou wilt not dissemble this iniurie which is done vnto thee: peraduenture, some that are heere present, were minded to take this diuine pardon, which now: will not, giuing place and credite to the wicked mans wordes: and because this matter is so hurtfull to Christian neighbors, I beseech thee once againe good Lord, that thou wilt not dissemble it, but immediatly, that it may please thee to shew heere a miracle, and that it may bee thus: If it bee true that this man sayth, that is, that the pardons which I haue heere, are false, that this pulpit may then sinke with me, as farre as the depth of seuen men vnder the ground, that neither it nor I may

neuer be seene againe, and on the other side, if that be true which I say, that he being perswaded by the diuill, hath sayd these wordes falsly and vntruely, onely to depriue the people of such goodnesse, that then it may also please thee to punnish him, that his malitious peruersity may be knowne to all men. My deuout maister had scant ended his prayers, but that the poore sergeant fell in a traunce, giuing himselfe such a blow against the ground, that all the church sounded of it, stretching out his body with greate aboundance of fome at his mouth, making strange visages, and stricking the ground both with hand and foote, tumbling vp and downe from one side to another: In so much that the noise which the people made, was so greate, that one could not heare another. Some were amazed and sore afrayd, saying, God be his helpe, and other sayd, he hath that which he hath deserued, seeing that he durst affirme such falshood. Finally some of those that were there, which to my iudgment were not without great feare, came neere to holde fast his hands, wherewith hee stroake all such as came neere him. Others held him fast by the feete, for there was neuer false moyle in the world that euer kicked so fast: and so they held him a good while. There were aboue xv. men vpon him, and he gaue them all their hands full: so that if they had forgotten their businesse he would haue giuen some of them ouerthwart their teeth. All this while my maister was in the pulpit vpon his knees, holding his handes together still, his eyes bent towards heauen, transported into such diuine essence, that all the noyse and rumour which was in the Church, was not sufficient to bring him out of his diuine contemplation. Certaine honest men that were there, came vnto him, and awaked him by force of crying, desiring that it might please him to succour the poore man which was a dying, and that hee should not regarde that which had passed, nor yet his euill words, seeing that now he had receiued punishment therefore, but that if he could helpe him any way howe to escape that perrill and danger that he was in, that he would so doe for Gods sake: and as for them, they plainely perceiued that he was in the fault, and so likewise that they knew his trueth and goodnesse, seeing that at

his petition, the Lord straightwaies for reuengment, sent him punishment. Then my maister the commissary, like one that had awaked out of a gratious sleepe, beholded them, and also the patient, with all those that were about him, & sayd: ye honest men, yee ought not to pray for one, on whome God hath so manifestly shewed his power, but seeing that he hath commanded that we shall not render euill for euill, but rather that we shall pardon all iniuies, to be able to make supplication vnto him, that he would giue vs grace to fulfill that which he commanded vs. And now that his maiestie (being by him offended) may forgiue him, so to shewe miracle of true faith, let vs goe altogether with humble heart, and pray to him. Wherefore he came downe out of the pulpit, commaunding such as were there present, most deuoutly to pray our Lord, that it might please him, through his grace, to pardon the sinner, and to restore him to his health and bodily sences againe: And moreouer, if his diuine maiesty had permitted any euill spirit to enter into him for his offences, that it might please him likewise, to driue it out againe. Incontinently they fell all vpon their knees, before the aulter, and with the Priestes they began to sing with low voice, the letany: and the Commissary my maister, hauing sung ouer him, came with the crosse and holy water, holding vp his hands, and his eyes bent towardes heauen, that one might see nothing but a little white, began his prayer no lesse deuout than long, wherewith hee made those that were there present to weepe, as they were wont to do at the Sermons of the passion, & he as a deuout preacher, desired almighty God seeing that he desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he shall repent and liue, to pardon, forgiue, and restore to life, that poore sinner which was led by the diuell, ouercome with death and sinne, that he might repent and confesse his sinnes: when he had so done, he sent for one of the pardons, and layd it vpon his heade, whereupon immediately the poore Sergeant began againe to amend, and by little and little to retourne to himselfe. And as soone as he had recouered his senses, he kneeleth downe at maister Commissaries feet, and there demanded pardon, confessing how that he had

sayde

sayde and done all those things, by the mouth and instruction of the diuell, as well to giue him griefe, and to be reuenged of him, as also because the diuell was sorie to see the goodnesse which ple receiued my taking the holy pardons. My maister did then forgiue him, and friendship was made betweene them. Then was there such great haste to take the pardons, that almost no creature liuing in that towne, but tooke one, the husband, and the wife, sonnes and daughters, men seruants and mayd seruants, there was none but would haue one. This newes was spreade abroade through all the townes there about, so that we then ariued thither: it was not needfull to preach, nor yet to goe to the Church to dispatch the Pardons: for the people came so fast to our lodging for them, as if they had bin peares that had bin giuen them for nothing: insomuch that my maister Commissarie dispatched and vttered away at the least ten or twelue thousand pardons in ten or twelue little villages thereabouts, without preaching one sermon. And as for my part, I will confesse my ignorance, for when this their inuention was tryed, I was in a great maruell to see such a strange case, and I thought the matter had bin so indeede, as many other did: yet notwithstanding, when I perceiued once the iesting and scoffing that my maister and the sergeant would make at the matter by the way, I vnderstood plainly, that al that counterfait shew was inuented by my maisters subtile industrious arte. And although I was of tender yeares, yet I tooke greate pleasure to consider their doings, and would say to my selfe: How many are there such as these that deceiue the simple people, to conclude, I continued with this fifth maister neere foure monethes, during which time I suffered much sorrowe.

How

Hovv Lazaro dvvelleth vvith a Chaplaine,

and what hapned to him in his seruice.

AFterward I entred into the seruice of a painter of Drummes, vnto whome I tempered colours, with whome I suffered a thousand euills, and as I was then of good bignesse, entering one daye into the great Church, one of the Chaplaines receiued me for his owne, and gaue me in gouernment an Asse, with foure great tankerdes, and a whippe, to sell water vp and downe the Citty, and this was the first staire I climbed vp, to attaine vnto any good life: for my mouth had then the measure. I deliuered vp daily to my maister in game thirty *Marcuedies*, and on euery Saturday I labored for my selfe, and all the weeke also what soeuer I could earne ouer thirty Marcuedies a day, was mine owne. This office was so good, that at foure yeares ende I had spared with my wages and my gaines, so much as bought me apparrell honestly, with old stuffe, whereof I bought an olde black fustian dublet, and a coate thred bare with gathered sleeues and whole veluet, and a cloake that had bin of selzado, and a sword of the olde making, one of the first of Cuellar. And perceiuing my selfe then in apparrell like an honest man, I desired my maister to take his Asse againe, and that I would no more follow that office.

(. .)

Hovv Lazaro dvvelleth vvith a Sergeant, and what happened to him in his seruice.

AFter that I had taken my leaue of the chaplaine, I did place my selfe with a Sergeant, to be a member of Iustice: but I dwelled fewe dayes with him, for in shorte time I perceiued that it was a dangerous office, especially when that certaine transgressors, which retired into a Church, chased my master and me maruellously with stones and staues: and at that present time my maister (whom I taried for) was euill handled, but they could neuer ouertake me: yet for all that I did forsweare the office. And as I imagined what kinde of life I had best lead, that I might prouide some thing against mine olde age. God by his grace lightned my minde to finde out the profitable way: So that through the fauour which I had of my friends and maisters, all the sorrowes, which before that time I had sustained, were recompenced with an office royall, which I obteined: the which I pretended, because that at this day there is no account but of them that haue wherewithall. So that at this present, I liue in mine office, and exercise it to Gods seruice and yours. Sir, it is so, that I haue the charge to crie the Wines that are solde in this Cittie, and to make inquirance with open crye, for things that haue beene lost, and when any suffer persecution by Iustice, I doe accompanie them, declaring with loude voyce their offence. I am (in plaine language) a Common Cryer. Sir, matters haue so well gone forward with me, and I haue vsed my selfe so well, that in manner all things belonging to the office, passe through my hands: insomuch, that looke whosoeuer within this Cittie dooth broache Wine, or sell

any things, and that Lazarillo de Tormes be not present, they make account neuer to get gaine. In this meane time, maister Archdeacon of saint Saluador your friend and seruant at commandement, hauing knowledge of my person and hability, especially since I had cryed his wine, went about to marry me with his maide. And after that I had considered, that with hauing to doe with such a man as maister Archdeacon was, I could not receiue but honestly and goodnesse. I determined to doe it, so that I tooke her to wife, whereof hetherto I doe not repent: for besides that she is honest, and a diligent wench, I finde great fauour and helpe at maister Archdeacons hand, for euery peare from one time to an other, he giueth her as good as a loade of wheate, and against Christmas and Easter, some good morsell of flesh, a couple or two of loaues, and such olde hose as he leaueth, and he caused vs to hyer a little house neere his dwelling: on euery sunday and holy day we dined (most commonly) in his owne house. But euill tongues which neuer cease, would not suffer vs to liue in peace, they would saye this and that, and that they did see my wife goe and make his bed, and dresse his meate. But God helpe them better then they say trueth. For besides that she is a woman that doth not delight in such game, maister Archdeacon hath promised me that which I trust he will fulfill. For vpon a time in her presence, he sayd at large vnto me, *Lazaro de Tormes*, he that will haue regard to euill tongues, shall neuer get profit. I say thus much vnto thee, I can neuer maruaile, though some men murmure to see thy wife come in and out at my house, which doing I promise thee, shall not otherwise redounde but to thy great honesty and hers. Therefore let people haue their wordes, haue thou onely regarde to that which shall be for thy profit. I answered him, saying, Sir, I haue determined to ioyne my selfe with those that are good, but trueth it is, that certaine of my friendes haue warned me of this, yea and moreouer they haue twise or thrice certified me with other, that before she was maried to me shee had two or three children, be it spoken vnder your maisterships correction, seeing that shee is present. My wife began then to giue such othes, that I thought the house

would haue sunke with vs all, and then began to weepe, curking the time that euer she maried me, insomuch that I wished my selfe deade when that I let scape that word out of my mouth.

But I on the one side, and my maister one the other, sayd so much, that shee left weeping: and I did sweare vnto her, that as long as I liued, I would neuer againe vse the like talke: shew that I reioyced and was well content, that she should come in and out both day and night, seeeing that her honesty and faithfullnesse was so well knowne. So then we remained all three with one accord vntill this day, and neuer no man heard vs speake, reason of that matter. And from that time forward, whensoeuer I could happen to heare any man talke of this, I would streight breake off his matter, and say vnto him, looke if thou be my friend, speake nothing that shall grieue me, for I do not take him for my friend that causeth me to sorrowe, especially that goeth about to sowe discorde betweene me and my wife, which I loue better than any thing in this world, considering how that by her meanes God hath done more for me, than I haue deserued, and I dare sweare by the holy sacrament, that she is as honest a woman as any that dwelleth within the foure gates of Toledo: and he that sayeth the contrarie, I will bestowe my life vpon him. So from thence forward, they neuer durst moue any such matter vnto me, and I had peace alwayes in my house. This was the same yeere that our victorious Emperour entred into this noble citie of Toledo, where his court was kept with great feasts and triumphes, as your maistership had heard: finally, it was then that I was in my prosperity, and in my chiefest time of good aduenture.

Lazaro declareth the certaine high friendſhip that Dutchmen ſhewed him, and what hapned betweene them.

Eing now in the toppe of my proſperitie, hauing fortune my friend, I neuer wente without a Bottle of the beſt Wine in the cittie, of the verie ſame I carried about me (being a Common Cryer) to giue a taſte to as many as were willing to buie: by vertue of which Wine, I purchaſed ſo many Gentlemen my friends, as well inhabitants there as ſtrangers, that where ſo euer I came, the dooze ſhould ſtreight be opened for me. And I was ſo fauoured euerie where, that if I had chanced to haue ſlaine a man, or to commit ſome haynous offence, all the worlde would ſtreightwaies haue bene on my ſide, being aſſured that thoſe Gentlemen being the Kings guarde, would ſufficiently both ſuccour and helpe me. Therefore whenſoeuer we met, I neuer ſuffered them to depart dryemouthed awaye, but did carrie them with me to the beſt wine I had broched in the citie, where oftentimes we went in vpon our owne feete, and came out either without any, or at the leaſtwiſe with ſtrange feete.

And that which I liked beſt of all other things, was this, that all the time I kept them companie, the diuell a blanke Lazaro de Tormes did paye: nor that they would conſent hee ſhould paye: for whenſoeuer I did put my hand to my purſſe (for manners ſake onely) they would take it in euil part, & beholding me

me angerly, would say, Nitte Nitte, Asticot lanz, & so reprehending, would alleadge, that where they were in company no man should pay a blancke: wherefore I was greatly in loue with these people: and it was not onely that serued our turne, but as often as we mette we should haue also slices of bacon, peeces of legges of mutton sod in that pleasant wine, with all manner of fine spice, and therewith they would fill both my bosome and skirts, enough for my wife and mee a whole weeke. The world being then so plentifull I would call to remembrance the hungry fits I had sustained in times past, praising the Lord, and giuing him thankes that the world now at the length was so wel changed. But as the prouerbe sayth: He that will doe good to thee, will either goe his way, or die. And so it hapned to me, the court remouing as it is wont to doe, and my friendes following it, at their departing I was desired by them that I would beare them company, promising to shew me much friendship and fauour. But remembring the olde prouerbe: Better is the euill knowne, then the good which is yet to know, thanking them for their good will, and desiring their fauour, after many sighes and sorrowfull embracings, I tooke my leaue, and they departed. And truely had I bin vnmarried, I would neuer haue forsaken their company, for indeede they were people, much of my nature and disposition. And it was a gratious, and not a phantasticall nor a presumptious life they did lead. A man should neuer see them scrupulous nor nice to enter into a Tauerne, but would goe in boldely (yea with cap in hand) if the wine for goodnesse deserued so much. They were plaine men, full of all honesty and gentle curtesie, and so well prouided at all times, that I would to God when I am a thurst, I might alwaies meete with such men. Notwithstanding the loue which I bare to my wife and to my countrey (which now I take for myne owne natiue, because men do commonly say, whence art thou honest man) caused me to stay at home. So I continued euer since in this cittye, leading a solitary life for the losse of my friendes and courtly life although I was well knowne of all the Cittizens. Afterwardes I liued verry well at mine owne ease, with increase of

ioy and kindered, for the birth of a trim little Daughter, which within a little while after my Wife brought forth. Whereat I hauing some euill suspition, she did sweare all othes, that I was the Father, and that she was mine. I continued in this estate, vntill that Fortune thought that she had now giuen me too much ease, and that she thought it reason for her to turne backe and shew me againe her seuere and cruell visage, to temper those few yeares which I passed at ease, with as much more trauell and deadly sorrowe, which now I should endure.

(O great God) who is able to write so vnfortunate and miserable a case, but must let the Inkhorne rest, and put the pen to his eyes?

FINIS.

To the Reader.

THough truth doe purchase hate,
and glosing beare the bell:
Yet is the man to be belikte
that trueſt tale doth tell,
Without reſpect of place,
of countrie, or of kinde:
For ſo the law of writing doth
each honeſt writer binde:
Then *Lazaro* deſerues
no blame, but praiſe to gaine,
That plainly pens the Spaniards prankes
and how they liue in Spaine.
He ſet them out to ſhew
for all the world to ſee,
That Spaine when all is done, is Spaine,
and what thoſe gallants be.
The writer ment but well,
and he that tooke the paine,
To turne it to our mother tongue,
the readers thankes would gaine:
For all his former toyle,
in penning of the booke:
The ſute is ſmall, allow him that,
that hapſt heere on to looke:
Though ſmall the volume be,
the vallew may be great:
Wherefore to yeeld him thy goodwill,
let this my muſe intreate.
Let *Rouland* haue reward,
for this his taking paine:
And ſo thou (reader) mayſt perhaps,
the like heereafter gaine.

G. Turbervile Gent.